

Woman and Her Work

Queen Amelie of Portugal has been interesting herself lately in the physical welfare of her ladies in waiting, in a manner that will scarcely win the approval of those high born dames, unless they are much more sensible, and less vain than the rest of their sex!

It seems that her Majesty of Portugal takes a much keener interest in scientific matters than most ladies, especially queens, are supposed to do, and when she first heard the wonders of the X rays discussed she resolved to see for herself just what they were capable of accomplishing. With this end in view Her Majesty sent to England for the necessary apparatus and after that experiments with the wonderful new photography became the order of the day at the Portuguese court. The Queen was delighted with her new toy, and various objects were placed before the screen to enable her to study the effect of the new light.

Unfortunately for the ladies of her court, the queen became greatly interested in studying the effect produced by photographing different persons, and seeing exactly how they looked when divested of their fleshly covering and reduced to a skeletonized state, like the leaves and flowers, our mothers used to waste so much time in preparing, when they were young. After a time she determined to see just what her ladies in waiting looked like in the skeleton state, and as one of the number promptly offered her services as an illustration of the extent to which science had advanced, the experiment was made in the presence of the queen and the rest of the ladies of the court. The result was disastrous in the extreme, and production of most unpleasant consequences. Not only was Queen Amelie greatly startled by what she saw, but so terrible was the deformity revealed by the searching rays, that she was absolutely incredulous, and it was impossible to convince her that she was not being imposed upon so extraordinary was the deformity that the photograph revealed. The lower ribs, known to science as the floating ribs, were warped and crushed together in a manner which startled and horrified the queen. So unnatural was the appearance of these bones that it scarcely seemed possible for the organs of life to exercise their functions under such conditions.

The scientist who was in charge of the apparatus was very closely questioned, and assured her majesty that he had only shown her what actually existed. There were no reasonable grounds for doubting him, so the queen requested another of her ladies to take up a position in front of the magic light and once more fixed her attention on what the rays revealed. This time the deformity was even more marked than before, and the queen was convinced that there was no room for doubt on the subject.

The photographs were shown to the court physicians who declared that they merely confirmed what every surgeon knew was the result of trying to make the waist smaller than nature intended, and the rays only showed the natural result of tight lacing. Queen Amelie was deeply impressed, and pondered over the matter for several days, and at the end of that time her decision was reached, and made public—that no lady who appeared at court should wear a corset, in future.

Her Majesty at once discarded her own corsets, and issued a decree setting forth that she believed it was necessary in the interest of humanity in general and in behalf of the future mothers of the nobility of Portugal that every precaution be taken to preserve the health, strength, and constitution of the ladies of the court. And she therefore believed it to be her duty and so decreed that the use of the corset by her ladies in waiting, and all other women who graced the court with their presence, must be discontinued.

It will be readily imagined that this sudden departure of royalty has caused an immense sensation amongst the women of Portugal, and also that there has been a very general laying aside of corsets in that kingdom, but the Queen commands and her ladies have no choice but to obey. Fortunately the royal edict does not bar the corset waist, so the ladies whose figures are dear to them have something to be thankful for and are doubtless grateful for even that small mercy.

Skating is decidedly the popular amusement now-a-days with fashionable people, and not only in clear old Canada is this the case, but in New York, London, and even in the gay capital of France the skating craze has broken out with great violence, and the fashionable rinks are crowded all day. This makes the skating costume

a very important garment, and the French fashion journals are consequently filled with charming designs for skating dresses. The simple cloth gown with either a loose or tight fitting jacket, is the one proper costume for the skater who goes in for the sport honestly, and because she loves it. The skirt of such a dress is cut shorter than the ordinary walking costume, but not so short as a bicycling dress, and though there may be a band or two of fur on the skirt, and a narrow border of the same on the coat, the costume is not overburdened with trimming and is made much more with a new to utility than effect. The head covering is something small and close-fitting, a little fur cap, or a Tam'o'Shanter; and fur trimmed gloves of stout quality, take the place of a muff. Appareled thus the fair skater is not burdened by her garments in the least, and she can go in for solid enjoyment without any fear of ruffling too elaborate plumage.

But the Parisian woman of fashion, and too often the New York one also—who takes up skating, is very apt to do so with more of an eye to the costume than the sport, therefore the display of extravagant costumes in velvet, cloth, embroidery and lace, is something to be wondered at in the rinks of Paris and New York. Nearly all these beautiful skating dresses are fur trimmed and silk lined. Cedar brown is a favorite color, and a cloth suit of this lined with apple green silk is a good example of the elegant skating suit which is more for effect than use. Instead of the plain jacket there is a bolero of green velvet, a cream lace vest striped with sable a black satin belt and collar, and cloth sleeves. Sometimes both skirt and bolero of such a gown will be bordered with costly sable. Red is, of course, a very popular color for skating dresses though it is seldom used for entire costumes, being considered rather too conspicuous to be quite in good taste, but occasionally a gown of dull red cloth heavily trimmed with black fur to tone down its brightness, is worn by a society dame, and it is most effective on the ice. A great deal of red is used in combination with dark cloth suits, the bit of brightness forming a charming finish for a dress that would otherwise be almost too sombre. Thus a zouave jacket of bright red cloth trimmed with black braid, brightens up a gown of brown cloth wonderfully, and gives it a touch of distinction which is very French indeed.

Red with brown is one of the most popular combinations and a very pretty effect is gained by sewing alternate rows of black and white braid on wide bands of red cloth. This makes a trimming which may cover the revers, form cuffs and belt, make the collar, if necessary, and form narrow bands for the skirt. A very effective under bodice for a red zouave, is made of red silk tucked up and down, and with sleeves of cloth like the skirt.

Black and orange is another very fashionable combination for skating suits, and odd as it sounds, green and yellow are strikingly pretty together, provided the right shades are selected.

Blouse waists of plain and printed velvets and velveteens, are considered excellent style with cloth skirts, as the new tints in these materials show especially soft and becoming shades when seen under the electric lights. A skirt of green cloth, with a blouse of green velvet, a sable muff and boa and a toque in a lighter shade of green, makes a charming costume. These toques, as I said before, are the favorite headgear for skaters and they are made with all sorts of fanciful spangled crowns, soft velvet rims, and trimmings of fur and feathers, violets or sometimes all of plain velvet with a handsome jewelled buckle by way of trimming. Rust color is one of the newest shades and a very handsome skating dress recently worn in New York had a skirt of rust colored cloth, and a blouse of citron green velvet patterned all over with wavy lines of pink. It was really a most lovely and original costume.

The Russian jacket has appeared again amongst skating costumes, and one of the new models is in green cloth edged all around the full baroque front and sleeves with sable fur. The vest is of white satin with bands of gold embroidery across it.

ATTENTION

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One of these bands is arranged to pass under the fur band, and forms the belt. The sleeves are tight fitting and have a plain oversleeve falling to the elbow in true Russian fashion, and edged with fur.

Amongst the most popular furs for trimming these costumes, are mink, dark lynx, and skunk, which latter fur is now so prepared that it is quite free from the very unpleasant odor which once made people hesitate to purchase it. For the pink cheeked beauty there is no fur so becoming as chinchilla, or the newer moulton, which is so cheap as to be almost within the reach of everyone.

Skating jackets which are called reversible reefers from the fact of nothing on either side, are the favorites in sales. They are often made of blue cloth with linings of plaid silk and have hoods lined with some bright colored silk which is repeated on the toque. These jackets are worn with skirts of black velvet or cloth. A most fetching skating costume is of cloth in a shade of deep rich violet with a bodice of violet velvet turned back from a vest of cream lace and white silk with mink revers, and fastened at the waist with brass buttons. The toque is of violet velvet trimmed with mink.

Another is of brown ribbed velvet with a bolero in rose pink cloth embroidered in colored jewels and edged with sable, while sable and lace form the boa. Perhaps the most elegant costume of all, is of black velvet with ermine collar and muff and toque of orange velvet with black and white feathers. These costumes sound more appropriate for a very swell reception, or some society function than a skating rink, but they are actually worn, though it is scarcely likely that the wearers enjoy the sport as much as the red checked Canadian damsel in the plain cloth dress does; or that they are as expert skaters.

ASTRA.

WILHELMINA OF HOLLAND.

She is the Idol of Her Nation and Has a Mind of Her Own.

When Queen Victoria inherited the British throne she was scarcely more popular than is the young Queen of Holland at the present moment. The Dutch simply adore their young sovereign, and take the most intense interest in her coming of age (which will take place next August), and in her possible marriage. Queen Wilhelmina is credited by her people with much force of character. It is thought that she will attempt to rule as well as reign, and her choice of a husband is therefore a matter of utmost importance to the Dutch. The *Woche Zeitung*, Amsterdam, says on this subject:

'The many rumors of the Queen's ap-

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proaching marriage are premature. More than once she has declared that she would prefer to remain single as long as possible. At any rate, it is certain that the Queen will choose for herself. She will not be railroaded into marriage. Only recently she said: 'I love my loyal subjects, and hope to please them in every way. But if they believe that they have a voice in the choice of my husband, they are decidedly mistaken. If extreme measures should be resorted to against me, I shall be more energetic than ever. I will not be married against my will, and I will not be married at all if I am not allowed to have a voice in the matter.'

Although there are many points of similarity between the position of the Queen of England and that of the Queen of Holland, there has sprung up between the two countries an estrangement since Wilhelmina inherited the throne of Holland. For some unaccountable reason the young queen has a violent aversion to everything English. The British press returns this dislike with interest. 'Her figure is ungainly, her lips are bloodless,' etc., are things we read of her in Life and other English society papers. These descriptions are reported to her and do not assist her in overcoming her dislike of Englishmen. The *Vaderland* relates the following incident:

'During a recent tour abroad the Queen expressed a wish to the Dutch ambassador accredited to a foreign court to meet his daughters. "I do so wish to meet some Dutch girls," she said. "I am just dying for some one to speak to me in my own language. Do send your daughters to me." "But my daughters do not speak Hollandish," replied the unfortunate nobleman. "My girls were not born in Holland; they speak only English." "Then for heaven's sake, do not send them to me," replied Wilhelmina, wrathfully. "I will have nothing to do with Dutch girls who do not understand their own language."—Literary Digest.

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An Atchinson man, deeply interested in politics, found time nevertheless, even in the midst of a national campaign, to think of matrimony, and after 'keeping company' with a young lady for some months, made her a proposal of marriage. So says the *Atchinson Globe*.

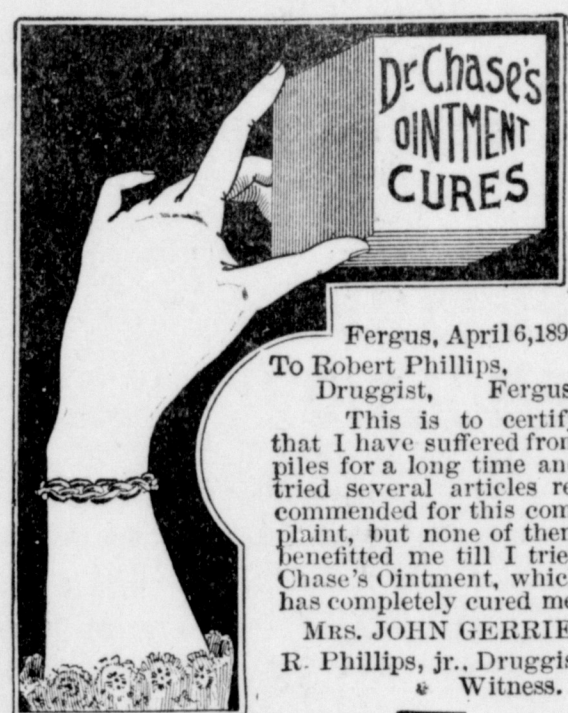
The lady, who not unlikely had found her lover's politics sometimes a bit wearisome, responded to his proposal by saying that she would take into consideration and reply by mail.

The man waited a full week—a most unusually long one, as it seemed to him—and then received a formidable-looking missive, some three thousand words in length.

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accepted the honor he had done her, and hoped that she should always faithfully preserve the traditions of good housekeeping, etc. He was nearly dead with exhaustion when he reached the postscript, which read:

'You are so full of politics, that I thought it might please you to have your suit accepted as nominations are accepted by presidential candidates.'



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