Woman and Her Work

I have heard the presence of those wrinkles which have an unpleasant way of appearing around the eyes and brows of lovely women when she has passed her first youth, accounted for in various ways, but certainly the very most original of them all, is to blame the ugly little lines upon the smelling bottle, and hold it responsible for the early loss of beauty so noticeable in some women. But that is what a woman writer does in the following paragraph which recently appeared in a well known fashion journal.

"Women who wish to retain their beauty of face should beware of the smelling bottle. The dangers to beauty which lie hidden in the seemingly harmless bottle of salts were brought vividly to the mind of a young matron recently by observing a near friend who was considerably clder than herself. Almost from day to day she noticed that her friend's face was becoming wrinkled, that the wrinkles were in unusual places, and that they tended to produce a most undesirable expression. She pondered over this matter for a number of days, wondering what could be causing the change and whether she ought not to speak to her friend about it.

It was during this agitation that the explanation flashed over her. She and her friend were sitting in front of a wood fire talking. The fire lit up their faces and brought out strangely every shadow that was made by an inequality of the ekin. Fron time to time, as they talked, the friend raised her smelling bottle to her nose and inhaled its pungent odor.

All the unbecoming lines in her friend's face suddenly deepened. They dominated her friend's expression completely, for they were the result of a sudden screwing up of her face because of the pungent odors of the hartshorn in the bottle. Then it came to her mind that there were some women among her younger acquaintances whose faces were beginning to show those same curious lines about the eyes, nose, and mouth, and she knew that these women were also addicted to the use of smelling salts.

"My!" she exclaimed to her friend, "don't ever use those horrid salts again." "And why not?" asked her astonished

*

"Because they are making you hideous and wrinkling your face all up. What do you use them for anyway?"

"Because I have a constant headache." "And do they cure you?"

"No." I had not suspected before that the smelling bottle was in very general use, but rather looked upon it as a belonging of the last generation, and certainly never thought of connecting the square glass bottles of lavender salts with their massive stoppers, and prim blocks of lump ammonia which one sees displayed in the druggists' show cases, with the formation of wrinkles. But we live and learn, in this world, and if it is to be a conflict between headache and wrinkles in the feminine mind, I am very sure it is headache which will have to give way every time; especially as most of us have proved the truth of the assertion that smelling salts are worse than useless as a cure, or even an alleviator of headache. They smell nice, and serve to distract one's attention from the pain in her head, to the very much sharper pain in her nose while she is inhaling them, but their usefulness ceases there, and my own opinion is that they make the headache really worse in the end. For freshening a close room, or refreshing an invalid with their pungent odor, they are invaluable, but their usefulness does not go much further, and the constant use of such a stimulant to the olfactory nerves, is most injurious. I am fully aware that some of these reasons would not have the least weight with the average woman; but once it is proved that the use of the smelling bottle results in wrinkles its fate is sealed, and we shall hear no more of the disastrous effects of too free indulgence in the pleasures of the vinaigrette.

I have always maintained that women knew very little about eating, and cared less-except where caramels and marsh mallows were concerned—and that if we were left to ourselves and deserted by our natural protectors we should soon resort to a diet of berries and roots eaten in their uncooked state. I see that others are of the same opinion, and woman's inability to take care of herseif, as far as eating is concerned, is attracting serious attention amongst the medical fraternity of Europe. The extent to which our unnatural indifference to the creature comforts of life, as represented by the pleasures of the table, is agitating the minds of the

wise ones of the earth, will appear in the Annual A following extract which I make from a re-

cent publication. "What and how women eat in restaurants has been a subject of much commment from time to time in our newspapers, and the women who orders hot soup directly after devouring a dish of ice cream has been magnified into an unlimited number of freaks; but a serious consideration of how refined women who have to work can get a wholesome, nutritious luncheon without paying more than they can afford or going to places filled with men has become a topic of interest in the medical papers of England. It is said that women are more inclined to save the difference between the price of a chop and a bun than men are; and so they lunch on the latter with the usual cup of tea, and ultimately succumb to neuralgia and an anæmic condition of the blood, which is entirely the result of insufficient food. Firstclass restaurants, where women can get good food at a fair price during the hours when they are using all their energy of mind and body, are the special objects in view just at present, and ladies' lunch clubs

through the nourishment we take." All of which would seem to prove that however much the new woman may have advanced in other ways, as far as the selection of nourishing food, and the care of her health in general, and her stomach in particular gces, she is still to all intents and purposes just the same delightful Old Woman that our grandfathers knew and loved in their young day.

in America are referred to as a worthy ex-

ample. There certainly is a good hint in

this for all those who have a wilful disre-

gard for the kind of food they eat, since

energy of mind and physical strength come

It looks as if we should have a perfect carnival of flounces and ruffles during the coming summer, and they have crept upon as so insidiously that before we knew they were on the way even, they had taken full possession of the fashionable world, and it was too late to say whether we liked them or not. Such a little while ago all the skirts were plain, even when made of the lightest material, but now they are simply loaded with trimming; braiding and plain bands have been tolerated for some months past, as they did not interfere with the outline or the trim tailor finish of a skirt but the perfectly plain one was preferred, as being really better style; but now the skirt that is really without trimming seems to be | to the exception, at least in the fashion journals. I saw one dress last week which was positively trimmed from the hem to the hips with graduated herizontal bands, and another which was trimmed midway between the hips and knees with a band of lace inser tion which came to a sharp point directly in front waved off towards the back in a series of undecided waves which rose higher as they reached the centre of the back and ended in a much shorter point than the one in front. It really looks as if we were going back to the hip trimmmings of four or five years ago, as another model shows a shirt trimming which consists of two overlapping gathered ruffles at the foot, and two similar ruffles placed just below the hips. A flounce which promises to com into great favor during the coming sum mer, is the old fashioned Spanish flounce which is set on a deep yoke at the hips and then half covered with tiny little rueffls which are gathered on to it. In fact there seems to be a perfect mania for these frivolous little ruffles, and one finds them straying over everything in the shape of woman's wear. They meander aim lessly over the skirt in all sorts of curves and scallops, sandykes, and zig-zigs and they are found alike on organdie and gingham foulard and chiffon. There seems to be no fixed rule for the application of these ruffles, for while one skirt shows a group of five or six flounces set closely together at the foot, and overlapping each other, another will have the same number of ruffles and all about the same width but placed so far apart that the five will reach nearly to the hips. One dress which might have been made ten years ago, so old fashioned is the trimming, has a very full gathered flounce about four inches deep, at the foot of the skirt, this flounce is headed by a band of insertion, and at regular change, and still be in the fashion: while intervals of their own width, are two more | those who like the jaunty stylish puff may

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quaint and at first sight the dress had a decidedly out-of-date look. An elegant dress of organdie is trimmed on the skirt with fifteen rows of narrow ribbon placed just its own width apart, and another dainty summer dress is cut into deep vandyckes at the foot and finished with a deep flounce of

It is predicted that cashmere is to be very much worn this summer, and those who have always retained a fondness for this most beautiful material will be glad to know that there has been a wonderful improvement in the method of wearing it, the new cashmeres in the light weight that is imported for summer wear being almost as soft and fine as crepe de chine, while the coloring rivals that of the most delicate silks, satin and moire stripes are thrown up upon these dainty back grounds and many of them are figured over with lovely designs in flowers and foilage; the nap of these cashmers is usually of silk, giving a lustrous sheen to the goods that is impossible to obtain when only wool is used.

I den't know why grey should be the color so generally adopted for gowns to be worn in Lent but anyone who watche the fashions carefully, cannot fail to observe that with the advent of the penitential season, there is a regular wave of grey, which seems to sweep over the world of fashion. It may be that the color is faintly suggestive of ashes and eackcloth, and is therefore supposed symbolize sins repented of, and for this reason it is considered appropriate, but every Lent we have our [choice in gray gowns, and they are always labelled "Lenten costumes" "Church dresses, to be worn in Lent" etc. The fact is, that no dress can be made smarter, or less suggestive of penitence and prayer than a gray one, and many of these so called Lenten gowns are smart indeed, been covered with elaborate braiding, or brightened with touches of vivid color; thus a dress of sober gray cashmere, is enlivened with linings of scarlet satin, while another has a bolero jacket of black velvet showing linings and slashings of white satin. A pretty dress of "dove's breast grey" silk warp cashmere, is daintily embroidered both jacket and skirt being trimmed with bands of embroidery, while the vest and belt are of clear daffodil yellow velvet. The combination is as charming, as it is odd, and nothing could be more becoming to a brightly colored brunette, than the combination of gray and yellow.

as the skirts grow more elaborate the sleeves grow smaller, just as they increased steadily in size while the skirts grew plainer and plainer. There is no doubt that we are rapidly approaching the perfectly plain tight coat sleeve of ten years ago; already some quite plain sleeves are seen fitting the arm tightly from wrist to shoulder and sewn into the armhole with scarcely a gather but relieved from extreme plainness by a frill of lace or silk about five inches deep, and extending all around the armhole. Fortunately, though the sleeves must be small, to be stylish, there is such an endless variety in their shape, that all tastes can be easily suited, and the woman who dislikes to relinguish her big comfortable sleeves can compromise on a bishop sleeve until she becomes accustomed to the bands of the same. The effect is very have a choice of half a dozen different

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styles, all new, and all pretty. The puff about your last book the other day, and has crept up much higher, and is smaller, that is all. Some of the newest and most striking sleeves, have a small full puff at the shoulder extending only a couple of inches below it, and another at the elbow, with the interval between quite plain, and

It is very easy for any woman who can use her needle, to remodel her large sleeves into any of the new shapes, there will be plenty of material and if the sleeves are at all worn at the elbows she can avoid all the thin places. A great deal of trimming is used on the new sleeves and of course it is a great help in covering up soiled or worn places that decline to be cut out; in wool goods little puffs of bias silk may be set on about an inch apart, nearly covering the sleeve, or numerous rows of narrow velvet ribbon may be used in the same way. All sleeves are made long over the hands and if too short for the present style a frill of lace, silk or chiffon is added, to give the correct appearance. Tiny frills of lace will be used as a trimming for the summer sleeves of dresses, encircling the arm nearly to the shoulder. .

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TRUE TO LIFE.

A Remark by an old Woman Treasured by Burns.

The early patroness of Burns, Mrs. Dunlop of Dunlop, had an old housekeep. er, an especially privileged person, who who had certain aristocratic notions of the family dignity which made the admiration of her mistress for the rustic poet incomprehensible to her. In order to overcome this prejudice, Mrs. Dunlop gave her a copy of the "Cotter's Saturday Night," which the poet had just written.

The old housekeeper read the poem, bnt when her mistress inquired her opinion of it she replied with indifference, 'Awheel, madam, tnat's vera weel.'

'Is that all you have to say in its favor?' asked Mrs. Dunlop, in amszement.

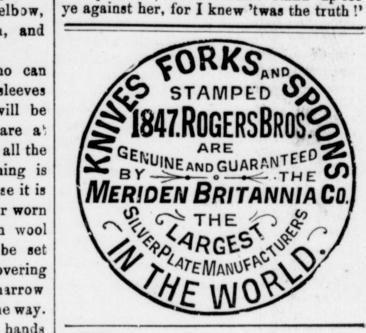
'Indeed madam,' returned the old woman, 'the like o' your quality may see a vast deal in 't; but I was aye used to the like o' all that the poet has written about in my ain father's house, end I dinna ken how he could hae described it ony other WAY.

It is said that Burns counted the ola house-keepers criticism one of the highest compliments he had ever received. He probably valued it as greatly as a

writer of New England stories values a remark once made to her by an old man. 'I should think when you're writing

stories you'd like o' make up things more,' said this aged critic, in a tone of kindly reproof. 'Now my wife and I were talkin'

my wife says to me. 'Why, John, there's just such folks and such things happening right in this very town as she's written down in this book, and most likely been well paid for; and I couldn't stand up for ye against her, for I knew 'twas the truth!'





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