

## Woman and Her Work

People will get married in winter sometimes, in spite of the well-established fact that June and September are the proper months for all right thinking people to take the silken bonds upon themselves; and of course there must be special costumes designed for those who choose the winter months for their nuptials. It is really hard to see at first how it would be possible to impart a reasonable appearance to a dress intended for a full dress wedding—but just wait! The swell December, or January bride has decided that orange blossoms are rather out of place as a trimming for her wedding dress, so she has discarded them, and in their place she uses fur. If she can afford it, the beautiful and expensive white polar fox heads the list of bridal furs, and next in beauty, though so inexpensive that even the humblest bride might have her gown trimmed with it, is the lovely white hare. One would be almost inclined to give the first place to the fur of royalty, the regal ermine, as an appropriate decoration for the robe of a bride, but a moment's reflection calls to mind the peculiar lemon-yellow tinge of that fur, which makes it very hard to harmonize with any of the cream or pearl white shades of silk and satin, which are now so fashionable. It is occasionally used by some dressmakers but not very often. Another new and beautiful trimming for a bridal dress is composed of bands of Arctic ducks breast, the silver sheen of which is especially appropriate and charming with the heavy silks, and rich brocades of which so many of these gowns are made. No flowers are used with these fur trimmed costumes except the bouquet which the bride carries.

A few wedding costumes have been trimmed with bridal roses in white silk, and the effect is simply exquisite; but as a rule simplicity of trimming, and richness of material is aimed at, and the gown has little trimming beyond passamenterie enough to relieve its severity.

A very beautiful wedding gown designed for a January bride was of white satin, cut in the princess shape that seems to be popular for such toilets, and fastened in the back by invisible hooks and eyes. The only trimming consists of two bands of passamenterie in seed pearls, extending from the shoulders to the foot of the skirt. The design is orange blossoms and ivy leaves, and here and there a small rhinestone flashes amongst the pearls. At the wrists of the sleeves, which are quite close in shape, and again at the elbow are bands of the passamenterie while a similar band trims the close collar. The veil is of the new silk tulle which is woven in a large mesh, and has a very narrow white satin selvedge, is draped from a jewelled sigrette and tuft of white tips.

Another novelty in bridal veiling is the embroidered tulle which is dotted over with little five petalled blossoms, or else is quite plain in the centre, but has an elaborate border of orchids in white silk, and silver threads. Another elegant bridal dress, is of cream white brocaded satin, the brocaded figures being richly outlined with silver thread. The skirt is cut after the usual model, plain front, and full train, but the bodice is decidedly new. It is so short waisted that it might almost be described as an Empire waist, and its special feature is the dazzling but inexpensive yoke made of "mirror" beads. These beads are the newest addition to bridal finery, and are made to reflect the light like mirrors instead of merely flashing it back from facets; they seem to be made of burnished silver, but are really composed of the same material as those cheap, "quicksilver" vases, sometimes sold by street peddlers. It is impossible to imagine the gorgeous effect produced by a passamenterie woven of these beads. The yoke in question is seen on the dress in leaf pattern, and there is no collar, not even the smallest band, the yoke merely fitting closely around the neck, just as a dress does before the collar is put on.

Dead white antique silk, which is really only bengaline with very little lustre, and fine cord, makes another handsome wedding dress, and the most up-to-date of all has a front of cream brocaded velvet, and long train of snowy white accordion plaited satin.

Curiously enough the orange blossom, which was once considered indispensable to every well regulated bride seems to be going out of fashion with the best dressed people! Somewhere, or other, concealed amongst the flounces, and frills of every full dressed bride, there is to be found a little sprig of the mystic blossom, securely sewn, but it is not by any means used as an ornament, or even intended to be seen, it is merely "for luck" as the bride who goes

to the altar without any orange blossoms at all, is simply challenging misfortune. Hence the concession.

I must not forget to mention the new hood veils which are decidedly the latest of bridal novelties. These veils are made of lace, and so small that almost any bride might indulge in one. They are scarcely larger than a good sized apron, extend about midway between the waist and knee, and are worn off the face, being draped on the shoulders, and then carried up and arranged over the hair, in much the same fashion as the large veils. They are very graceful and pretty, and when made of rich lace form an elegant finish for the bridal toilette.

There is a rumor that low necked and short sleeves dresses will be worn for wedding costumes in the near future; but in spite of that, all the most fashionable bridal robes continue to show the modest high neck and long sleeve that good taste suggests. The low bodice will probably continue to be the regulation style for royal brides in the future, as it has been in the past, but the damsel of less degree is scarcely likely to adopt it, even if fashion makes the mistake of trying to introduce such an innovation. ASTRA.

### FANS DAINTY IN STYLE.

They are Small and Beautifully Painted and Some are Very Costly.

The most expressive little accessory of a woman's dress is her fan, it she but understands the art of using it. French fans are the most attractive and dainty in design. Size is the important point in the fashion of fans just at present, since they must be very small, and if we go back to the time of our great-grandmothers and resurrect their tiny fans, we will have the proper size for use today.

The Empire and Louis Quinze fans are the popular shapes. The sticks are of mother of pearl, ivory, tortoise shell, ebony and violet wood, beautifully enamelled and inlaid with gold. Black mother of pearl is a novelty this season, and the ornamentation of gold shows off with good effect on the dark background. Despite the small size, these fans display the most perfect specimens of fine painting in Watteau figures, birds, and flowers, and the very prettiest mounts are transparent with various designs in silk introduced at the top which is popular. The sticks are in black pearl, and the mousseline de soie is black, with black silk at the edge exquisitely painted with birds and figures in Louis XVI. costumes. Paillettes are distributed over the sticks and all. Fans of white mousseline with fine Brussels lace on the edge and tortoise shell sticks are the daintiest little trifles imaginable. Medallions of silk set in point lace and painted with mythological figures and finished with mother of pearl sticks are the modern reproduction of the Louis XV. fan, but in the old days these fans were of parchment or fine leather.

Large sums of money can be invested in this little article of dress, and some of the later imitations of this old style cost from \$50 to \$1,000, according to the fineness of the workmanship. A fan of green silk painted with violets, with violet wood sticks stained green, is a charming little novelty. Much less expensive are the Chinese fans of fine crepe painted with flowers.

### ALL THE TONIC SHE NEEDED.

A Dying Request that Brought About a Change in the Patient.

There are more ways of killing a dog than by hanging him, and there are more ways of curing a man than by giving him medicine. At least there is another way of restoring a feminine invalid to health and strength, if the experience of a certain young woman of this city is to count for anything.

This young woman is a most attractive creature, bright, pretty, amiable. Any man might be proud to win her, but no one has succeeded so far. She has a married sister, however, and has often expressed her fondness and admiration for her brother-in-law in enthusiastic terms. All of which is a part of the story.

Not long ago the married sister had a serious illness, and the young woman did a large and devoted share of the nursing. Everything that care and medical skill could devise was done for the invalid, but she remained an invalid in spite of it all. Day after day she grew feebler, and day after day she hinted more strongly that she was not long for this world. The young

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woman, of course, bolstered up her sister with encouragement and tonic three times a day, but the sister still insisted that it wasn't any use. Finally she got to a point where she was so very low in her mind that she called the young woman to her bedside one day, and in a voice choked with emotion she said:

'Don't try to hide it from me any longer, Grace! It's got to come and I'm reconciled—or I hope I am. But before I go I want you to promise me one thing.'

'Now, stop talking such nonsense,' gently chided the young woman. 'You're going to be all right soon. All you need is another bottle of tonic and a good brace. The sister feebly shook her head.

'You mean it all right, but you don't know. I tell you I am going to die and this is a dying request I have to make of you.'

'All right, dear, said the young woman humoring her sister for the time. 'It's—about Ned,' beginning to sob weakly. Ned was her husband, by the way. 'I want—I want you to look after him—and see that he isn't—oh, too miserable—you know. Promise me—I ask it as my last request—that you will look after—Ned?' and the unhappy wife wept bitterly.

The young woman was really deeply affected, but she had a flash of inspiration and she said briskly, almost gayly:

'Don't you worry about Ned! I'll see that he doesn't go out of the family!'

The invalid started dashed away her tears and gazed at her sister as if she couldn't believe that she had heard aright.

'What do you mean?' she demanded. 'I'll keep him where I can take care of him, dear. That'll be all right. Don't you worry.'

The invalid stared for a minute, then she said in a business-like tone: 'You mean that! I'll see that you don't!' and with that she began a rapid recovery.

### AFRICAN ETIQUETTE.

A Traveler Tells How to Get Along With the Dusky Chiefs.

In African travel it is always wise to visit the biggest chief in any part of the country, says a writer in the Century. One can always learn from other chiefs at a dis-

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tance who they are and something of their character. In approaching them, always send word of your coming, and get, if possible, information in advance of the feeling of the chief toward whites. Upon nearing the village, send on ahead to announce your arrival and wait until your messenger returns with some of the villagers to escort you to their chief. Greet the chief civilly, and ask him to send one of his people to show you a good place for your tent, if you decide to camp in the village, which I have done invariably in this country, though it is not always advisable in every part of Central Africa. When you have rested, the chief will come to see you. Then state to him your business, talk frankly with him and explain plainly your needs, whether you want guides or to buy food.

I seldom stayed in a place more than one day, and generally the first night I called the chief privately into my tent and had a long talk with him, and gave him a present, consisting generally of a good cloth, four yards of American, four of wide blue, four of narrow calico, and about an egg-cup full of beads, and sometimes an empty bottle or two. Invariably I received next day the co-operation of the chief in every way, and also a big goat or sheep or bullock, and fifty or sixty pounds of flour. Sometimes I gave a small additional present before leaving. If the chief took a fancy to any particular thing, and I could spare it, I did so. Sometimes one wanted a sheath-knife, and another a hat. Old Kambuidi was determined to have a shirt. He wanted a candle, matches and needles, which I gave him; and as I had previously given him cloth, I suggested, as a feeble sort of joke, that, as he now had cloth and sewing material and light, he might sit up at night and make a shirt. Immediately the old fellow replied: 'It is the candle that is interfering with my success. Here, take back the candle and give me the shirt.' I finally yielded and gave him a much-patched garment, which satisfied him.

### Bad Blood Between Them.

The ever-slaving farmer's wife, her delicate sister in the city, suffer more than they can tell. The dark rings round the eyes, headaches, dizziness, palpitation or rheumatic twinges, betoken a run-down system. The blood is poor, and is a bar to enjoyment of life. Scott's Saraparilla purifies the blood, strengthens and vitalizes the system, and speedily restores the bloom of health to the cheeks. It cures when all others fail.

### Both of one Mind.

A story going the round just now o society in Budapest will illustrate the simple good nature which makes the Emperor Francis Joseph so popular among all classes of his often unruly subjects. Herr Sikel, a Hungarian deputy, after growing gray in the exercise of his parliamentary duties, thought the time had come when he might fairly ask for a post under government as the reward of his services. Accordingly he called on the premier and delicately broached the subject. 'My dear fellow,' exclaimed Baron Banffy, 'I should be delighted to find you a billet, but nobody over 40 can be appointed to the civil service without the express permission of the sovereign.' So Herr Sikel, donning the national costume, hurried up to Vienna, went to the Hofburg, and after due preliminaries got an audience of his king (Hungarians recognize no emperor). Ushered into the royal presence he slid his petition on to a side-table, and then stood overawed and dumb-founded for a while, until Francis Joseph inquired, 'And what can I do for you, my friend! Poor Sikel could only manage to blurt out, 'Your Majesty, I should like to

be 40 years of age.' 'Ah!' replied the Kaiser, 'and so should I.' But a glance at the furtive document had revealed the man's errand, and he was sent off rejoicing with the royal signature.

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### Like An Insane Asylum.

The Washington Post reports a sharp saying by a 'newspaper woman' of that city.

On the night of the national election she was out in search of news, and started to enter a small hall, in which, as it appears, the Congressional Committee of one of the great parties had its quarters.

Even from the vestibule she could hear a deal of loud and excited conversation, but as she was about entering the hall door an attendant bustled up to her and said:

'You can't go in there, miss.' 'Oh, pardon me,' said she. 'I didn't know that was the violent ward.' And with that she withdrew.

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