

Woman and Her Work

I am hearing more good words for those wonderful preparations—Fould's Arsenic Soap, and Campbell's Safe Arsenic Complexion Wafers—all the time. Not only have they proved in my own case almost a specific for violent headaches from which I have been a sufferer all my life, but I have also made a discovery in connection with them which I daresay will be a surprise even to the manufacturers themselves, as I have never seen this particular property of theirs advertised, or exploited in any way. I find that the use of the Arsenic Wafers has a truly wonderful effect upon the hair, arresting it in falling out and giving it fresh vigor in growing. My hair has always fallen out a great deal in the autumn and early winter, but last winter I noticed with surprise that instead of having my comb filled with hair after doing up my hair, there was scarcely a strand remaining. As I had not been doing anything for my hair, I was naturally at a loss to account for the phenomenon, and did not connect it with the wafers at all. But as I began to observe that the hair had not only stopped falling, but become much thicker, I remembered having washed it with arsenic soap, and came to the conclusion that the improvement was entirely due to the use of arsenic, both internally and externally.

I only wish that all of my sex who are distressed when they look in the glass by the sight of scrawny necks, thin arms, and flat undeveloped chests, or by sallow muddy complexions, could be induced to try these wonderful preparations, and prove for themselves the benefits which are to be derived from them. I don't say they will effect miracles after a few doses, and they certainly will not transform a weatherbeaten woman of sixty into a girl of sixteen. But they will give the woman of thirty-five the smooth skin and white neck of twenty-five, and they will brighten her eyes, and give her pink cheeks, and red lips, all for the trifling amount of five dollars, because I would not advise anyone to spend a dollar on a single box of wafers, and fifty cents on a cake of soap, and then be disappointed because the expected result is not secured. It takes some little time to purify the blood, and no physician who was prescribing a blood purifier would advise his patient to stop when the first bottle was empty. One must persevere in this, as in other treatments, but the result will amply repay one for all the outlay, both of patience, and of solid cash.

I often wonder just how far what is called "trust in Providence" should be carried, and to what extent that trust can be abused—I mean when it ceases to be an expression of religious faith, and degenerates into a lazy indisposition to help oneself? It is all very well to trust in Providence provided one does not end by leaving everything to the All Wise, shifting all responsibility from our own shoulders, and declining even to keep our powder dry.

"Oh I'll take the risk" says the girl squandering the greater part of her allowance on some extravagant piece of finery which she really cannot afford. "I positively must have that lovely silk, if it takes my last cent, and I will trust to Providence to pay my debts." "I really can't work these lovely nights when there is so much going on" says the idle youth who is wasting his parents' hard earned money at college. "I may just as well take all the money that comes in my way, and trust to Providence to pull me through the exams somehow."

"Just a few hundreds more" whispers the man who is "borrowing" from his employer in order to make a rapid fortune by speculation. "I shall be able to return it fourfold in a month, and I will trust in providence, to keep him from finding out about it before that."

But somehow it too often happens that the girl whose love of pretty things was stronger than her principles, finds herself hopelessly involved in debts that she cannot pay, that the idle student is ignominiously plucked; and the too sanguine borrower is discovered by his employer before he can return the amount he appropriated, and that same employer who is as harsh enough to call his borrowing by a harsher name, and prosecute him for embezzlement. And then the victim of a too child-like dependence on a mysterious power supposed to relieve him of all responsibility connected with his own career, felt aggrieved and disposed to transfer his patronage to some other establishment.

I have seen really religious and conscientious people who carried their blind trust in an "over ruling providence" as they were fond of calling it, to such an extent that they were content to drift with the tide in a sort of supine inertia which they

earnestly believed was the highest form of submission to divine guidance, they had such perfect faith in the ability of their Creator to look after His creatures that they quite overlooked the plain injunction to help themselves, and equally plain admonition that faith without works was dead.

For myself, I cannot help thinking that after Providence provides us with health, brains, and judgment we are supposed to make proper use of the gifts placed in our hands, and help ourselves to some extent, and therefore it always arouses me to a lively state of indignation when I hear some easy going soul remark with an air of virtuous resignation—"I am not doing a thing but just trusting in Providence!" because it so often means that the pious one is in reality depending on the good offices of their more industrious neighbors.

Although this is essentially the dull season for fashions, and a time of year when very little change could be expected, there is really a surprising variety in the fashions published each week. One of the oldest features is the tendency to turn backward and adopt styles that we thought we had seen the last of some years ago. Trimmed skirts, double skirts, Eton and bolero jackets, and last of all pouched blouses and plaited skirts are instances of this tendency, and I am really looking anxiously through the fashion reports every week, to see if the large sleeves are not with us again in full force. We have been losing sight of the cape lately, the decline in sleeves having greatly affected its popularity, but it is by no means a back number yet though it is more ornamental than useful now. Lovely little capes are made of lace over a colored taffeta lining, fitted closely to the shoulders. The lace may be either cream, or black, and it is gathered around the neck to secure a good fit, and finished with a neck ruche of lace and ribbon, and on the edge with ruffles of lace over taffeta. It is very short, only extending about half way down the arm, and the whole effect is most airy, and fluffy.

Mull, grenadine, and net gowns are scarcely considered quite complete without one of these frivolous little capes to match each costume. Bows of white valenciennes insertion, alternating with bands of tucked chiffon over a yellow lining, form one of the newest capes, to be worn with a dress of maize and white organdie, and even pique dresses have capes, as well as jackets to match them, and the heavier guipure, and Irish point lace, are used for trimming them. Some very pretty black net capes for general wear are seen, and they are trimmed with jet, and ruffles of the net having several rows of narrow black satin ribbon sewn on each one.

In millinery the same light and transparent effect so noticeable in dress fabrics, seem to be sought after. In general appearance the fantastic styles of the early spring are greatly modified, and the wild clash of colors is no longer apparent, white and yellow straw hats taking the lead, with white lilacs, white wings and birds, and dainty white, and pale tinted chiffons for trimming. Neapolitan and zephyr braids, are the prettiest of all the fancy braids, but there are numbers of others shown; and the old fashioned leg-horns lavishly trimmed with white ostrich plumes are being worn again, sometimes with the addition of pink roses, and buds. Pale ecru panamas are in the height of the fashion, and are trimmed with flowers, tulle and wings.

In spite of the number of white hats seen, black ones are quite as popular as ever; but the vivid green, purple and red straws worn early in the season, look out of place with dainty pale tinted summer dresses, and they have been discarded accordingly. A very special feature of the summer hats, is the keeping to one line of color, in combination with as much white, as may suit the wearer's fancy the motley combinations of every color in the rainbow, or out of it, which were considered the proper thing two months ago, having worn themselves out, as all startling fashions, have a way of doing. For instance—turquoise blue, or yellow chiffon, with white lilacs and white wings on a white Neapolitan hat make a dainty combination, as any woman need wish for, and white corn flowers with blue centres, and blue for-get-me-nots are very popular together.

One rather striking hat is of white leg-horn with a wreath of green oats, a bow of green antique satin ribbon and two black ostrich feathers standing up at one side. Hats made entirely of white tulle, or chiffon with white ostrich feathers are worn with thin white gowns, and pretty little toques are made of black lace over white tulle, and trimmed with pale blue chiffon, rosettes, a white ibis wing and a black aigrette. A dainty toque is of yellow silk straw, and lace insertion radiating from the crown in alternating bands, and trim-

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med with black ostrich feathers yellow and white rosettes of chiffon and tea roses.

Strings of velvet, lace ribbon and tulle are a feature of some of the newest hats and toques, and all the new hats have higher crowns than those shown in the early part of the season. Very pretty and simple hats of yellow straw, are in round shape, turned up at the back, and trimmed with yellow or pink roses, and a bunch of black quills at one side. The touch of black is seen in nearly all light hats and is most effective.

"He looked at her thoughtfully. Being the head of a dramatic school, he had acquired the knack of looking thoughtful without any serious effect."

"You are determined to go on the stage?" he asked at last.

"I am," returned the young woman.

"You are satisfied that you were made to be an actress and set the world afire with your genius or do some other equally startling thing?"

"Well, I won't exactly say that," she replied, with the air of one conscious of her power, but too modest to exploit it herself. "I am satisfied that I will make a success in the theatrical business if I get half a chance, but I do not care to say more than that."

"What line do you favor?" inquired the man whose business it was to teach stars to shine, suddenly impressed with the idea that she was not so aggressive in calling attention to her merits as most young women who have acquired stage fever. "Would you want to start in as Juliet, or do you consider Lady Macbeth more in your line?"

"Really," she returned, in surprise, "I had expected that you would settle that."

"You—you were willing to leave the selection of play and character to me?"

"Certainly."

The dramatic man found it difficult to believe his ears, but she repeated the assertion.

"You have had experience," she said, "and you ought to be able to tell in what I would make the greatest success."

"Precisely," he said, "but most girls who come here think they already know just where and how they can do the best. Now, if you are willing to leave the matter to me—"

"I am," she interrupted.

"I will send you down to the seashore for a few weeks—"

"Yes?"

"And if you make any kind of a sensation I'll put you on in burlesque or comic opera at once, thus starting you at the very pinnacle of success, while if you attract no great amount of attention it will be necessary for you to begin a long course of study for tragedy or drama, and it may be years before you reach distinction."

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WAYS OF MEXICAN CHILDREN.

How Mexicans are Taught to be Kind and Useful.

Children are much loved in Mexico, which is well, for they have very large families—sometimes as many as twenty-four in one family, and sixteen is a common number. But this is only among the well-to-do, as many children of the very poor die in infancy, from want of proper food and care.

Politeness seems to be inborn. Even the babies will extend their hands when you are leaving the house, and the small boys on the street will lift their hats in a manly way.

The older girls oftentimes bring their baby brothers and sisters to school with them, patiently and lovingly caring for them to the best of their ability, while the mother is away from home hard at work. Except in a few mission schools, there is no such thing as co-education; even the small children of different sexes are not allowed to attend the same school. There are not half as many schools for girls as for boys, and these are not so well attended; for girls as a rule leave school early, as they are frequently married between the ages of twelve and fifteen. The attendance at the Industrial School at Santa Maria is well sustained and the Junior C. E. prospers.

The children are fond of singing and in that way carry much truth to their homes. They are bright and learn readily, particularly anything that is to be memorized; but when it comes to reasoning out anything, it is very hard for them. The poor girls of Juarez are given a free education of a practical character, that they may make themselves independent of want. Among other things they are taught book-keeping, drawing, printing, bookmaking, painting and music. The government gives them comfortable rooms, two good meals a day, and furnishes many of the poorest pupils with clothing.

The children are not taught that obedience is a praiseworthy attribute, and the girls especially are allowed to do very much as they please—"I don't want to" being thought reason enough for not doing as they ought.

The children of the rich are brought up to despise work, and to believe that it is shameful for them to soil their hands with it, and of course the poor are more or less influenced by this. Many prefer to beg as they are ashamed to work for an honest living.

They do not have as many games as our children, but the poorer classes are not so rough as the poorer class in our large cities, for a fight is almost unheard of among them. In this respect, our own children may take lessons from their little brothers and sisters of Mexico.

SHE MISUNDERSTOOD.

The Old Lady Couldn't Place the Stanzas as Sung.

Many singers fail to realize the importance of distinct enunciation, and the charm of a beautiful voice is often lost by the listener who is vainly struggling to catch the meaning of the song.

A young woman, who considers herself an admirable ballad-singer, one day received a severe shock from the criticism of an old lady who had formed one of her audience. Among other ballads, the singer had rendered "Rory O'More" in her best style, and had received much applause.

The old lady, who sat in the front seat

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in the little hall where the entertainment was given, looked at first puzzled and then distressed as the familiar song proceeded; and at the close of the concert she waited to speak to the young woman.

"My dear," she said, in a quivering voice, "I remember when when 'Rory O'More' first came out. I have never been a singer myself, but have always been interested in music; and I am sure I never heard the words as you sang them to-night. I am not deaf; my hearing is unusually good; but will you tell me where you get your authority for singing?"

"He polished the hook,

And she salted it down;"

for though I cannot remember the original words, I am sure they were not like that."

The young woman's face was crimson as she showed the old lady her copy of the song, and pointed to the words:

"He held as the hawk,

And she salt as the dawn."

Timed His Drinks Better.

A minister in the Highlands of Scotland found one of his parishioners intoxicated. The next day he called to reprove him for it. "It is very wrong to get drunk," said the minister.

"I ken that," said the man, "but then I dinna drink as meikle as you do."

"What—how is that?"

"Why—ginit please ye, dinna ye aye a glass o' whiskey with water after dinner?"

"Why, yes, Jemmy—merely to aid digestion."

"And dinna ye take a glass o' toddy every night before ye gang to bed?"

"To be sure—just to help me to sleep."

"Weel that's just fourteen glasses a week an' about sixty a month. I only get paid once a month, an' then I'd take sixty glasses it wad make me dead drunk for a week; now ye see the only difference is ye time it better than I do."—London News.

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