

## Woman and Her Work

I think it is generally conceded that one of the chief aims of the average woman's life is to preserve her youth as long as she can, and the ambition is a laudable one enough as long as more important things are not sacrificed to it. No woman can see her youth slipping away from her gradually, or to feel that she must be satisfied to occupy a secondary place in the society where she formerly held a delightfully prominent position. Age is very honorable and thoroughly respectable if we choose to make it so, but at the same time all the preaching in the world to that effect will not console the pretty woman who can no longer disguise from herself that her fresh color has faded into a permanent paleness which is different from the clear paleness of youth, and terribly like the salowness of age; that tiny but very distinct lines gathered about the corners of her eyes and traced themselves from the nostril down to the corner of her mouth, and worst of all, that the mysterious little break in the outline between chin and throat which is said to be the first and most unmistakable sign of vanishing youth. What queen ever enjoyed stepping down from her throne and watching another, and younger, fairer sovereign ascend it? Not many I fancy, and neither does the woman who, however attractive she may be in other ways still enjoyed a certain sovereignty on account of her youth and good looks which none of her other charms had power to win for her. It has been truly said that there are no longer any middle aged women left in the world, we are all either young or old, quite old, with white hair, caps, grandchildren and the burden of at least seventy years resting on our shoulders. I suppose this is because we have learned to take better care of ourselves, and to use all the means in our power to preserve health, vitality and beauty, and also because the preservation of feminine youth and beauty has become of late years so recognized a branch of materia medica that men of science have not scorned to turn their attention to it, and have made some wonderful discoveries in that line.

A very novel, original and thoroughly delightful substitute for those bygone horrors, the autograph album and the mental photograph ditto, which were used as instruments of torture for one's friends fifteen years ago, is the Vanity Book which is one of the newest fads amongst the swells of Gotham. This book consists of a volume of substantial size, and of course quite blank, which is purchased by the devoted parents soon after a girl baby makes her first appearance on earth, and in it is recorded first of all the genealogy of the baby on both father's and mother's side as far back as there is any knowledge of it. Photographs of great grandparents, grandparents, and parents with scraps of the great grandmother's grandmother's and mother's wedding dresses if possible. Photographs of the baby's father and mother at the time of their marriage, and after the birth of the all important baby with the wonder herself very much in evidence together with pictures of the house and even the room in which she was born. The announcement card which told the friends of the family of her birth, and specimens of the congratulatory letters received in response. A description of the baby's personal appearance follows. As the months pass the entries in the Vanity Book grow more and more interesting. Baby's transfer from long to short clothes, her first tooth, her first word and when it was spoken, when she began to creep, and when to walk. Each page contains illustrations as it were, in the shape of souvenirs; the first sock the child wore, her first little shoe, a piece of her first colored dress—in short everything that marked a beginning of any kind finds a permanent place in this wonderful book, so that the

## THE LIQUOR HABIT—ALCOHOLISM.

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story of the child's life may be read therein.

As the child develops the character of the items naturally changes, when she first goes to school, her earliest efforts in the shape of school work, the first letter she writes, her childish joys and griefs and sometimes her temptations and struggles. Then she grows older still more interesting grows the record, pictures of the child at different ages, and of her boy and girl friends, her first invitation to a party, and a bit of her first party dress. Then the newspaper notice of her graduation from college, her coming out into society, and bits of her graduation and coming out dresses. The programme of the first matinee performance she attended. And then a change as the book passes into her own keeping, and thereafter the writing of her life-story is in her own hands.

It may sound too much like "Vanity" at first, but remember the book is not begun by the subject of it herself, and also that it becomes of incalculable interest to those who love her, after years. Fancy what that book will be to the sometime girl when she is fifty, and fancy what its value will be to her son or daughter when some tender hand has written the sad word "Finitis" to that life record?

On the whole, it seems to me that the Vanity book as it so honestly describes itself has much more to recommend it than most popular fads, and that it should be encouraged as much as possible amongst the fortunate few who have time to devote to such pretty fancies.

Did anyone ever see such lovely materials as are being shown in the shops now for summer wear? It is enough to make one wish for the purse of Fortunatus, and it does really make the average woman quite light-headed to see many beautiful things at once, and most of them at such distractingly reasonable prices. The exquisite cotton crepons striped and barred with silk, the silk gingham, and the organdies, not to mention a still newer material, silk striped grenadine which is so light and thin that it resembles organdie. This grenadine is almost the loveliest of the summer fabrics, and while it is scarcely suitable for an entire dress for a person of moderate means and whose dresses are not many, it is charming for summer blouses, or evening dress. The combinations of color are lovely, one pattern has a groundwork of the palest lemon, almost a cream; with narrow stripes scarcely a quarter of an inch wide, and but half an inch apart of brightest yellow silk; another has the ground of pale Nile green with alternate stripes of pink, and green silk, while a third shows a delicate heliotrope ground with strips of dark heliotrope almost violet silk bordered on each edge with just one thread of brightest gold. Any one of these would make an ideal bodice for dressy summer wear, with a skirt of black silk, any of the light woolen materials which will be worn later on. Of course the very swellest thing to have these transparent materials lined with is silk, but unfortunately silk is very expensive, costing double what the outside does, and for persons whose purses are slim there are pretty sateen linings which exactly match the silk strips in color and are as dainty as possible, having a firm body, quite a gloss which makes them difficult to distinguish from silk when made up, and a width of thirty inches, all for eighteen cents a yard. Other semi-transparent materials such as the silk gingham, which look and feel exactly like all silk goods come in the fashionable shades, and in a sort of openwork canvas weave, sometimes in striped patterns, and again in all-over designs. These neutral tinted goods have style and character added to them by bright colored linings, usually either pink or bright red, as they are not generally very successful when made up over their own color.

Some of the grenadines which are in dark colors, and curious, misty Dresden designs which scarcely show at all until placed over a lining, are far from pretty, but they are supposed to be very stylish, and as they are the latest thing, they will doubtless take with those who look for novelty first, and beauty afterwards. The wool grenadines—I really cannot say what those I have been describing are made of, but I think it must be cotton—are really beautiful, they come in all colors with narrow satin stripes and checks, and the varieties are simply endless, never has there been such an extensive choice in these goods, which are certain to be popular all through the coming summer. Challenges too are prettier than ever in the fine qualities, which are of course quite expensive, some of them ranging from fifty to sixty-five cents a yard. They also are satin striped and sprinkled all over with rosebuds, polka dots, or dainty trailing vines, which make them both attractive, and expensive. One of the novelties in color is a bright red with either black or white polka dots and red satin stripes.

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It will not grow rusty—its dust-shedding qualities are absolute. Matchless in delicacy of texture—unsurpassed in its wearing service. Silk warp. Wrapped on the varnished board, "Priestley" stamped on every fifth yard.

### The Improved Henrietta

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Decidedly the most popular colors for the summer will be the porcelain, hyacinth, turquoise, cadet and sapphire blues, all the pretty shades of gray and sage; Russian and emerald greens and violet will be used for contrasts in trimming. Yellow in all the shades from cream to deep orange will be worn, and also a pretty deep rose pink. The new cloth gowns for spring wear are chiefly in light fawns, grays, browns and sages, and also a blue and gray mixture which is serviceable in all kinds of weather.

A new idea for making up blouses of transparent material like the organdies and grenadines I have described, is to have the lining like the skirt lining separate from the dress itself. Thus a dainty summer blouse of white organdie elaborately trimmed with embroidery and tucks, is worn over a plain underslip of pale blue china silk or batiste. This makes it easy to launder the blouse, and is much newer and prettier than the customary embroidered "slip waist"; colored organdies and silk gingham are made up in the same manner over a lining matching the satin stripes or checks.

ASTRA.

### SAVE YOUR FEATHERS.

## Diamond Dyes Will Make Your Faded Hat and Bonnet Feathers Good As New.

It may be that some ladies are not aware of the fact that old hat and bonnet feathers can be made to look as good as new by the Diamond Dyes those universal home friends. Let us tell you how to do the work.

Use the Diamond Dyes prepared for Wool and Silk that can now be bought from any dealer. Clean the leather by soaking it in strong soap-suds fifteen minutes, then draw gently between the thumb and forefinger a number of times, and rinse in warm water; dip and redip in the dye-bath until the desired shade is obtained; rinse in cold water, and press gently with the hands between two cloths, to remove the water; now hold before a gentle fire, shaking slightly until nearly dry, and the curl by taking three or four sprigs of the feather and drawing briskly between the thumb and back of scissors, and so on until it is finished. Old feathers can be re-colored and made to look like new. To color feathers black, be sure to use the Diamond Fast Black for Silk and Feathers, prepared by the makers of the Diamond Dyes; this is the only successful dye for coloring feathers a rich black.

### A Woman Pack Peddler.

I saw the first woman pack peddler I ever ran across, while on a tobacco buying trip on Green River last week," said Fred Thompson last night. "I was going from Woodbury to Morgantown and while at a

village store talking to three growers, I knew, saw walking up the road a swarthy complexioned woman, away under a load on her back that would of made me cry 'enough' before I had toted it very far. The female peddler, for such she proved to be, said she came from New York to Tennessee last year and had started near Milan tramping back in this direction. She looked to be thirty-five, had strength like a wood chopper and seemed well pleased with her novel profession. She said she was making money and expected to return to the East this year to marry the man she loved, who was taking her earnings to put with his own and pay for a little cottage."—Louisville Post.

### WITH THREADS OF METAL.

Tinsel fabrics and the More Costly Brocades of Gold and Silver.

Tinsel fabrics are the flower priced of the cloths into which gold or silver threads have been woven. In tinsel fabrics the gold threads are of brass or copper, gilded and the silver threads are of white metal. These threads of metal, originally fine wire are rolled flat and burnished, and they glisten in the fabric wherever the pattern brings them to the surface. Tinsel fabrics are made about three-fourths of a yard in width, and they sell at 75 cents to \$2.50 a yard. They come in various colors, and many of them are beautiful and artistic in design. Some are copies of old Venetian tapestries. Tinsel fabrics are used for church and for theatrical purpose, and sometimes for gowns and for decorative purposes. The costlier fabrics, with interwoven metal threads, are called gold and silver brocades. In these the gold threads are of silver, gold-plated, and the silver threads are of pure silver; the body of the fabric is of silk. The brocades are all beautiful, and many of them are exceedingly so. These fabrics are made about five-eighths of a yard in width, and they sell at various prices up to \$25, and sometimes as high as \$50 a yard. The costliest of these fabrics are very rarely imported into this country, brocades at \$10 and \$12 a yard being about the highest priced used here. If more elaborate fabrics are required they are usually imported to order. The finer fabrics, with metal threads, are made in France, the commoner kinds in Germany. Gold and silver brocades are here used almost exclusively for church purposes, and chiefly for vestments. They are imported in red, violet and green, and also in black with silver threads, the black and silver being for mourning. Gold and silver brocades are also used to a limited extent for decorative purposes. Such fabrics, and gold embroidery, often of the costliest descrip-

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