

Woman and Her Work

It is quite a common thing to hear of children engaging in charitable work, and the sums collected for church purposes, home and foreign missions, hospitals, etc., by quite small children have proved valuable additions to the funds of these charities and testified to the power of doing good possessed by even the smallest and weakest of us, when our energies are properly directed. But I think it will be a surprise to many of us, as it was to me recently, to hear of dogs devoting themselves voluntarily to the cause of philanthropy, and spending their lives in charitable work. Some people may smile at the idea, and feel inclined to think that Astra's love of animals is becoming a monomania, and leading her to make foolish assertions, but it is a well known fact all the same, that there are in England at the present time no less than four dogs who spend their entire time in collecting money for charitable purposes.

First on the list of these noble and unselfish workers for the benefit of humanity is "Joe" of Folkestone, a very beautiful English spaniel, the property of Mr. Charles Russell, of Folkestone, who has already collected by his own unaided exertions over twenty-one pounds for the Folkestone hospital, besides various smaller sums for other local charities. "Joe" is one of the best known and most valued members of Folkestone society, and he makes a most irresistible beggar as he trots about with his tin box bearing the legend "Hospital" in large letters suspended from his neck, or sits mutely soliciting contributions with his beautiful speaking eyes. "Joe" and his master are the most devoted friends, and the former seems perfectly happy in his chosen career.

"Tim" is perhaps even better known, as his sphere of usefulness is in a much more public place than "Joe's." He is a terrier, red in color and possessing the extraordinary intelligence for which all Irish terriers are noted. His especial proteges are the widows and orphans of the Great Western railway, and he spends his days on the arrival platforms at Paddington Station selected for his chosen charity. He goes very quietly about his task, but in a thoroughly business-like manner, never failing to remember the time for the arrival of each train, and to be on the platform walking about amongst the passengers with his little collecting barrel around his neck, and always sure of a friendly greeting from his numerous friends—for "Tim" is such a well known figure that he counts his friends by hundreds—and is sure of attracting kindly interest in his clever little self and his good work, from strangers. "Tim" began his collecting on the second day of May 1892, and during that first year he collected the amazing sum of sixty-two pounds, twelve shillings, and sevenpence.

"Schnapsie" is another resident of London though a foreigner by birth, and he is decidedly the aristocrat of this quartette of workers in the cause of charity. He possesses the distinction of having been the only specimen of the long-coated dachshund at the Botanic gardens dog show, where he not only carried off several prizes but took advantage of his prominent position to prosecute his charitable work in the most energetic manner possible. "Schnapsie" was born in the Tyrol in February 1895 in the kennels of the Countess Thurn of Meran, and was presented by her to Mrs. H. Allingham, who was spending the summer following his birth, in the Tyrol. He was easily trained by his mistress to beg in the most irresistible manner, and soon became one of the most successful members of the dog brigade of hospital workers. He carries a very handsome gold mounted collecting barrel which is fastened to his collar by gold chains, and of which he is exceedingly proud. This wonderful dog actually maintains a cot for children at the Great Northern hospital which he has endowed entirely by his own

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efforts. He is a frequent, and most welcome visitor at the hospital, and seems never to tire of his labor of love and charity.

It is a striking illustration of the unselfishness of "the friend of man," that only one of the four is engaged in work for the benefit of his own species. This notable exception is one of the best known collecting dogs in England, a handsome half bred collie called "Pat", who is owned by Mr. Gerald E. Morgan of Southsea, and who spends two hours every day from April to October, on Southsea pier, soliciting contributions for the Royal society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. "Pat", whose owner never asks for a contribution, or assists him in any way, has collected by his own unaided efforts nearly eighty pounds, for the cause which is of such vital interest not only to all animals, but to all animal lovers. He both asks and thanks everyone himself, and it may be readily imagined that he is a prime favorite.

And these gentle, unselfish creatures whose entire lives are spent in working for others belong to the race, which is mis-called by lordly man—"the lower animals," yet they display in a marked degree qualities which are supposed to be possessed only by the best and noblest of mankind. Few of us, with our boasted intelligence and philanthropy would care to devote our lives to the collecting of coin which was to be expended not on ourselves but on our suffering fellow creatures. Still less would we care to give up our legitimate pleasures in order that we should never miss an opportunity of adding a shilling to the slowly increasing hoard; but these faithful little creatures are satisfied to give up every delight instead of a life of delicious indolence varied by hunts for rats and rabbits, chasings of cats, and exciting quarrels with other members of the canine race, they are content to live a life of stern devotion to duty, not for a few days, or weeks, but for all time, little dreaming in their honest humble hearts that they are setting an example which their masters might be proud to follow.

The spring generally brings a scare of some kind or other just to create a ripple of excitement in the world of fashion and keep things from stagnating. Some years it is the threatened return of the bustle or crinoline, others the revival of trained dresses for street wear, or something equally improbable. This season it was announced earlier in the year that the long shoulder seam would positively make its appearance, and in such an exaggerated form that it would reach well down on the arm in real 1830 style. Nothing could be much more uncomfortable than this method of cutting a bodice, since the long seam means a contracted arm-hole which hampers the movements of the wearer far more than even the tightest of sleeves, besides giving an indescribably dowdy and home-made look to the most expensive costume. There is also a latent threat that the bustle will be with us in the near future, but I think as long as the skirts continue to cling to the hips so closely, there is little danger of such a calamity. The long shoulder seam is another threat which need have no terrors for us, since its lack, both of becomingness and style will prevent any of the leaders of fashion from adopting it.

Ruffled skirts seem to be gaining in number and variety almost every day, but unfortunately they are like the Russian blouse in being so easily developed in cheap materials, and badly made copies of elegant models that they are in danger of becoming so common before the season is fairly begun, that well dressed women will have none of them. Velvet ribbon in graduated widths, and gathered into ruffles which are put on straight around the skirt, is one of the newest forms of skirt decoration; but decidedly the popular fancy of the moment is the apron effect, which if produced by a group of narrow ruffles set on in rows which reach much higher in the back than the front curving up towards the waist and leaving an apron shaped space on the front breadths, without any trimming at all. The foundation for the ruffled skirt is not made nearly so full as the skirt which is to have flat trimmings, but it is,

just as carefully cut and hung, and if it is intended for a house dress, it frequently has quite a train.

The use of black and white, both separately and together as a contrast in trimming, is really a very important feature of dress, as most telling results can be achieved at a very small outlay by the judicious employment of these colors. There is nothing like a black trimming of some sort for freshening up an old gown, especially if the gown is light in color, the contrast forming a perfect disguise for the fact that the material has lost its first freshness. Puffing and shirring in various styles seem to be conspicuous features of the new dress models. One of taffeta silk has the skirt shirred into puffs down to the knee, below which it flares into a very full Spanish flounce. These puffs are slightly graduated in width, the lowest being probably six inches deep and the one nearest the waist about four. The shirrs which separate them are in groups of three and about three quarters of an inch apart. The bodice has a yoke and vest of puffed chiffon, and the sleeves are held in wrinkles by lengthwise shirrs. Some of the newest summer models for nun's veiling are shirred in this manner into a series of puffs from the waist down over the hips. A pretty dress of light green and white grenadine is made with ruffles of itself edged with white satin ribbon; the ribbon is gathered into coils on the bodice and finishes the neck and epaulets, the yoke and sleeves are of lace over white satin.

When selecting one's best summer dress it is well to remember that some sort of transparent fabric is the thing to buy for a dressy costume, and indeed for a simple one either, since there are all kinds of weaves, and every variety of color, displayed in the shops. The new nets and grenadines have been on the counters for some time, but the new veils in silk and wool are by far the daintiest of all the summer novelties. They are as sheer as lawn, yet quiet as serviceable as the old fashioned veiling, and very beautiful in coloring. Another lovely new fabric which is not transparent but very thin has a texture like crepon. It is very soft and silky, comes in both plain and mixed colors with bayadere stripes and checks, and has the appearance of being blistered in regular forms like matelasse materials.

Of course people who go into society much are obliged to give some thought



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to evening dresses even in summer, and some of the materials which are now being shown for evening dresses are dreams of beauty. One is tulle chenille which looks as if it might have been woven of velvet thread. Lace flowers are applied to this with very telling effect, and it comes in all the pretty light tints. Greek nets, in fact nets of all kinds are popular, and satin gowns are greatly in favor also. The close fitting yoke effect in the skirts is preserved even in the thinnest materials. One charming evening gown is of ivory white the foundation of satin, and the overdress a sheath-like arrangement of the satin which is almost like a greatly exaggerated yoke so closely does it fit over the hips. It is cut in deep points, the ends of which reach to within six inches of the foot of the skirt, and these points are trimmed with green velvet bands studded with pearls. They are filled in with a flounce of chenille dotted white lisse, and the bodice and shirred, transparent sleeves are also of lisse. The sash and epaulettes are of green velvet and the bertha like ruffle which finishes the low neck is of of pearl embroidered chiffon. In contrast to this gorgeous gown, is a simple but stylish evening dress of plain black net, over black satin trimmed with frills of black satin ribbon with a row of baby ribbon above and the needed color supplied by a belt of geranium red velvet which confines the simple baby waist.

A pretty cloth dress for spring wear is of sapphire blue cloth trimmed with silk mohair braid in a darker shade. The vest is of resula silk, with a bit of deep yellow in the tucked collar band, which gives the contrast so much desired in all the fashionable gowns. A new coat model for a tailor gown with a plain skirt shows velvet revers edged with a pattern in silver and gold braid. Another spring jacket opens over a vest, hangs quite loose on each side, and is tight fitting in the back over which a black satin belt is worn, which passes through slits at the sides and fastens in front over the vest, allowing the fronts of the jacket itself to hang loose. The edges are finished with stitching, and it is an exceedingly jaunty and stylish little garment. ASTRA.

Conduct of Girls in 1595.

Some extracts from a letter of Rebecca Parks, written in 1595, show how the young woman of the time felt they must deport themselves when, as was the custom

they acted as waiting-women to those of rank. It would be difficult to fancy American girls of today acting as apprentices to other women for the sake of prestige gained through having served in that capacity and the useful hints given them by the women of the world. But lessons of self-control and self-effacement were more usually thought necessary, and only to be gained in those days in some such way. Rebecca says quaintly: 'I hope I shall perform my duty to my lady with all care and regard to please her, and to behave myself to every one else as it shall become me.'—New York Tribune.

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