

Woman and Her Work

Next to the man who always makes it a point to be as disagreeable as possible to every friend his wife possesses, and who spares no effort to discourage her from wasting her time as he calls it, in receiving visitors at all—defend me from the honest hearty fellow who errs on the other side, and is determined to make all her friends welcome that his very kindness and hospitality are positive thorns in the flesh of his long suffering partner! He is invariably a good soul who is anxious to please the partner of his joys in all things, but who unfortunately lacks the tact to discriminate between ordinary acquaintances who may be far from congenial to his wife, and the valued friend whose society is always an unmixed blessing. This genial being arrives at home some morning just before lunch and finding his wife in earnest and apparently interested conversation with an acquaintance who having more time to spare than she has is ruthlessly taking up that busy housewife's time, he rushes to the conclusion that he will be only doing the proper thing if he asks the visitor to stay to lunch. The fact that it is washing day, that lunch is not ready and that his wife is impatiently awaiting the departure of her guest in order to prepare the broiled fresh shad and fried potatoes which comprise the simple repast, never crosses his mind. So he proceeds to relieve the situation according to his lights. "Is that you Mrs. Jones?" he exclaims cordially, "just ran in to talk to Jennie for a little while and cheer her up eh? That's right, nothing does her so much good, keeps her from moping. Now just take off your bonnet and stay to lunch. Oh yes you must; Jennie will be offended if you say no, and there's nothing I like more than to have my wife entertain her friends. What's that Jen? Mrs. Smith mentioned that she must be at home for lunch, or you would have asked her to stay? Never mind that Mrs. Smith, they will have to do without you to day, for we are just going to keep you so run right up to Jen's room and take your things off."

Of course the helpless wife can do nothing but murmur some polite phrase which may be taken for an endorsement of her husband's more than cordial invitation, and Mrs. Smith is persuaded and remains. Little does it matter to this wrong-headed man that his wife has an engagement with either the dressmaker or the dentist immediately after lunch; or that Mrs. Smith happens to be a notable housekeeper with a critical eye and a sharp tongue for any shortcomings in that line on the part of others. She is perhaps the last person on the earth by whom the luckless Jennie would like to be taken at a disadvantage, but in his good natured obtuseness he never takes any of these things into consideration, and when his wife, with flushed cheeks and nervous manner finally announces the belated meal, he beams with satisfaction, and good feeling, serving out the too plain fare with the same genial hospitality he would display over an elaborate dinner, utterly oblivious of his wife's mortified face, and the general air of constraint which is felt by everyone but himself. Worst of all, he cannot understand why he finds Jennie on the sofa with swollen eyes, and a bad nervous headache, when he comes home to dinner in the evening. Even if Mrs. Smith did stay until nearly three o'clock, thus effectually preventing the appointment from being kept, and even if lunch was late, and not so nice as usual, the too hospitable husband can see no reason for making so much of a trifle; he laughs good naturedly at his wife's distress, and though he soothes her by promising to be more careful next time, he repeats the offence at the very next opportunity—and all with the best intentions in the world.

Sometimes his zeal in the cause of making his wife's friends welcome, prompts him to give the woman she dislikes most on earth, a cordial invitation to run down and spend a few days with them in the country; and the disliked one concluding very naturally that the invitation comes from the proper quarter and blissfully un-

THIS CERTIFICATE Brings Forth a Story.



(From Toronto Globe.)
BOWMANVILLE, ONT.
We, the undersigned, certify that the health of the Rev. R. A. Bilkey has for months been deteriorating, and that he is now suffering from severe nervous prostration, and urgently requires immediate and prolonged rest. J. W. McLaughlin, M.D., A. Beith, M.D., L. Holland Reid, M.R.C.S., etc.

THIS INTERVIEW TELLS IT.

A reporter called on the Rev. R. A. Bilkey, rector St. John's (Episcopal) Church, Bowmanville, Ontario, during a church function, and on congratulating him on the great change for the better in his appearance, the reverend gentleman said, "It is due entirely to Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills. "I suffered for over three years from extreme nervousness, weakness and prostration, and could not obtain relief. A few months ago it became only too apparent that extreme nervous prostration had set in, as I lost flesh and appetite rapidly. Three of our four medical men pronounced me in urgent need of immediate and prolonged rest in order to build up my nervous system, giving me a certificate to that effect. About this time, by pure accident, Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills were brought to my notice. I decided to try them, and on doing so a decided change for the better took place at once. I have since continued taking the pills, with continued and marked benefit and improvement. My appetite has returned. I am gaining in flesh steadily, and my general health is now good. Further, I am sure that these results are due to the action of Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills, and I have every confidence that they will do for others all that they have done for me."

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conscious of the other's feelings towards her, accepts gratefully, and arrives at the appointed time.

Hospitality is always a virtue, and a man who is always ready to make his wife's friends welcome to his house is a treasure indeed, but perhaps he would stand a better chance of having his virtues appreciated if he would try to ascertain her feelings on the subject before he exercised them indiscriminately.

All doubts as to the season's fashions in Paris are settled at the race for the Grand Prix, which serves as a final opening of the latest productions in summer dress. While it is not so important a function, from fashion's point of view, as it was a few years ago, gorgeous costumes are still a conspicuous feature, and modes in dress reach a climax which is at least indisputable for two whole months. All the finest discriminations as to cut, finish, and combinations of color have been made, and there is no hope of anything really new until the question of autumn gowns comes up again.

The principal point to be noted from this last display in fashion's domain is that the epaulet has entirely disappeared from the top of the new sleeve, and the really small sleeve, without any illusive little caps or frills to give the appearance of fullness, is here again. It is gathered a trifle at the top, and it may be shirred and trimmed for its entire length, but it is close fitting and very long, falling a little over the hand. No doubt we shall soon get accustomed to this close sleeve, robbed of all the varying protuberances which have distinguished it for several years now, just as we do to every prevailing fashion, but it can never be made so generally becoming as the sleeve which adds some breadth to the shoulders.

The chief feature in the newest skirts are their trailing length and narrow width, but something quite novel is a skirt which fastens at one side and is seamless in the back. Just how this result is accomplished successfully is one of the mysteries of fashion yet to be solved. In apron effects there is a sort of double skirt made with an apron quite separate from the lower skirt, and not attached to it except at the belt. This is not more than ten inches wide at the back, where it opens, hooks together for the entire length, and rounds down to nearly double the width in the front. It fits the hips very closely, and is trimmed all around the edge to match the lower skirt. Despite the variety in skirts, however, the five and seven gored skirts are still very popular.

The circular flounce may be added at the bottom or not, as you fancy. But if you would have the very latest Parisian model in skirts, it must be the one called seamless, which is absolutely plain all around the hips, with no plaits at the back, where it buttons closely half way down. These scant clinging skirts have some disadvantages for the woman who is not blessed with well-rounded hips, but she is equal to the emergency if she is a Frenchwoman well acquainted with all the mysteries of modern appliances as a means of producing fashionable effect. Padding the hips is simple enough, it seems, if reports

from Paris are true, and it is the fashionable thing to do providing you do not possess the necessary curves to enhance the charms of this new skirt. It does not matter so much whether the Parisian woman is generously endowed with beauty or not, she has ways of acquiring it with her mode of dressing which answer every purpose.

Among the minor features of fashion is the growing fancy for lace in every possible way in which it can be used for trimming for entire gowns, bodices, and coats, the last being made of Irish or Maltese. One new form of lace coat rounds down to the under arm seam like a bolero, and is close in the back, where it extends to the hem of the skirt after the manner shown in one of the illustrations. All the lace coats, however, are not so long in the back, but they round away from the front to a very decided basque, which in outline is very much like a man's dress coat.

Blouse waists of lace are very popular for dressy gowns of foulard, moire and various kinds of transparent materials, and the sleeves may be of lace or match the skirt, as you fancy. Bands of the dress fabric embroidered and inserted between puffs of tulle form another of the many ways of making a fancy bodice. Cross meshed net well covered with lace applique sprays is very effective for this purpose, and pretty contrasts are made with black gauze over white silk ornamented in stripes or small figure with fine jet, this being used for the bodice of a colored grenadine, checked canvas, or any of the ecru linen gauzes checked with colored satin stripes, with good effect, providing narrow ruffles or plaited frills of black gauze are the finish on the skirt.

Sashes of the dress material [ruffled around with the black gauze appear on some of these gowns. A pretty feature of the lace and gauze waists is a blouse corset of the dress material opening down the middle of the back and front to show the under bodice to the belt. This rounds up from underneath the arm to points on either side and is trimmed around the edges with tiny flat ruffles of gauze or a bias fold of black velvet. Black chantilly flounces, a narrow one at the bottom, and a wider one falling over this, with a tiny ruche of itself for a heading, are the skirt trimming on a gray crepe de chine and are supplemented with a sleeveless lace jacket edged all around with a narrow ruche of net. Bands of cream white applique fully seven inches wide edge the skirts of some of the new wool gowns besides covering the entire front breadth and striping the bodice.

Tailor-made coats have revers of Irish lace over satin, insertions of Irish lace trim the new foulards, and lace is everywhere. Ecru lace insertion, edged with bouillonnes of gray chiffon, is effective in a gray crepe de chine, and so on to the end of the chapter on the use of lace. Raised flower embroidery of crepe de chine ornaments some of the new gowns, and floral embroideries of black chenille mixed with jet and steel are still another fancy especially striking on white crepe de chine.

Among the new foulards is one made of of Dresden blue, patterned with white, made with a triple skirt edged with white satin piping. Another gown of red and white has a short bolero decorated on either side with small antique silver buttons. A wide belt of wide glaze silk completes the bodice below, and the skirt is made with a deep flounce plainly hemmed and a narrow flounce at the head.

Plain glaze silk in colors, as well as black, is very popular for the dressy summer gowns, which must be light and effectively trimmed to have any style. Something entirely novel is a gown of blue glaze in the peculiar shade of the hydrangea, trimmed with three wide bias folds of white taffeta silk above two very full flounces.

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arranged to round up a little in front and at the back. Among all the pretty summer gowns there is nothing more attractive and stylish for the money invested than the pique costume, made with a junty coat and skirt, or a blouse waist with a wide collar falling from a guimpe neck or turning back from a vest. The skirt with a circular flounce of even width all around is most popular in this material, and as a means of renovating an old gown it is a great success. Add a flounce of white to a colored pique, and a white collar to the bodice, and you have the latest touch.

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FINGER NAIL BITING HABIT.

There is Only One Sure way to Stop the Practice.

'Non-believers in the doctrine of the transmission of hereditary instincts are brought to a standstill when they are confronted with such an indisputable fact that the finger-nail biting habit is, in nine cases out of ten, handed down to the children of those addicted to it,' said a Washington physician. 'I have for nearly ten years watched this thing carefully, and in almost every case where a parent, either father or mother, has been a finger-nail biter, I have found that the children have at a very early age naturally fallen into the same practice. The chief finger-nail biters of the world are the French, and it was recently stated, upon reliable authority, that nearly two-thirds of the French school children are addicted to the habit. French specialists who have made a careful study of the matter maintain that the finger nail biting habit is a sort of nervous disease and the French educational authorities are about to take steps to stop the habit among French school children I haven't heard yet what they are going to do about it, but I am certain that they have a big contract on their hands. Even for grown people there is hardly any habit aside from the confirmed abuses of narcotics, more difficult to overcome than the habit of biting the fingernails. It requires a strong mental effort and constant vigilance to do this for once a person has be-

come thoroughly addicted to the habit he does it unconsciously, and is only reminded that he is marring himself when he gets one of his nails gnawed down to the quick. All manner of remedies have been advanced for the cure of the finger nail biting habit, including the placing of injurious and bitter compositions on the ends of the fingers, but none of these remedies amount to much.

The only way to stop biting the finger nails is to stop, which is the only way to stop drinking liquor, by the way. The Americans are next to the French in the finger nail biting habit, probably because the Americans, as a whole, are an exceedingly nervous people. A man who accomplishes his determination to knock off biting his finger nails may, by incessant manicure nails is to stop, but finger nail biting, if long persisted in ruins the shape of the ends of the fingers, and the nails can never be brought to look as well as those of the persons who permit their nails to grow as they were intended to grow.'—Washington Star.

One Way of Catching Them.

An enterprising photographer has lately completed a system by which his pictures of babies have become famous. He has discarded all the familiar expedients of his profession to persuade very young children to submit to the camera, and the scheme has been completely successful. One part of his gallery has been fitted up like a nursery. Around the rooms at convenient points are situated cameras, and these are in charge of his assistants.

The photographer devotes his attention to the baby. He tries all the toys in turn, gets on as intimate terms as possible with the baby after such short acquaintance, and gradually lures the unsuspecting infant into looking his best. When pose and expression are satisfactory, he gives a signal to one of his assistants at the cameras and the trick is done. Mothers bring their babies from all quarters to this tactful photographer. It would be a difficult matter to find any child who would not, after ten minutes' session with toys, exhibit some expression that his parents would be proud of. The artist catches that expression and as many other agreeable ones as possible.

The final d-light comes to the mother when she receives the proofs, not sent as proofs usually are, but mounted on a large piece of cardboard, which makes it possible for her to compare them simultaneously. This wise man has left nothing undone which could strengthen his hold on the babies and their photographers.

An amateur botanist in Voronezh, Mr. Fetisoff, has succeeded in cultivating roses of a pure black color. His persistent experiments lasted more than ten years, and he intends shortly to exhibit his new black roses in London.

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