

Woman and Her Work

If one may judge by the nature of the controversies which have been appearing with great regularity week after week in the woman's pages of the weekly papers, as well as in the columns of those journals which are exclusively devoted to the affairs of women, the pendulum shows a decided inclination to swing back to its original position since the tension of the last year or two has been relaxed. In short the mind of lovely woman seems to have wearied of wrestling with obtrusive problems, such as the best way of proving the mental and physical superiority of woman to the inferior animal man, the length to which the proper privileges of the New Woman should extend, and the degree of emancipation that marvellous product of the century would be justified in claiming and recovering its elasticity it is going back to first principles with a vigor that is truly refreshing.

"The Woman who is most pleasing to man," is the healthy title of a recent article in a woman's journal and a column and a half is devoted to a thoughtful disquisition on "How Shall She Hold a Man After She has Caught Him?" engages the attention of a writer in the New York Sun last week throughout a whole column, and such titles as "The Woman Who Charms Men," "What Wins a Man's Heart," and "How to Retain a Husband's Affections," meet the eye in every paper one takes up.

Coupled with the unusually abundant crop of receipts for making herself beautiful which form a feature of this season's literary output, I take this as a decidedly hopeful sign, and it really begins to look as if woman was thinking of letting extraneous matters alone for a while, and attending to her own affairs again. Perhaps—who knows?—she may be missing the incense she has become accustomed to from long use, and finding the cool shades of intellectual superiority in which she has elected to dwell of late, rather chilly when contrasted with the cheerful sunshine of masculine admiration and masculine love, which is her birth right but which she has been trying her best to trade off for a mess of rather indigestible pottage which seems to have already palled upon the palate and turned to dust and ashes like the famous, but not very authentic Dead Sea apples. Ah girls, deny it as you may, repress the felling as you will for the time being, there is no gainsaying the fact that the approval of the other sex is still something to be desired, and that in her secret heart the New Woman is just as fond of making conquests and keeping them, as the old one was.

The dog has been having his day for ages past while kicks and cuffs have been all that fell to the lot of poor pussy whose life has been one long apology for the presumption of existing though she was often far more useful than the more favored canine. But now the tide seems to have turned, and there is every prospect that kitty will be permitted to enjoy those "nine afternoons" which are supposed to be as much her right, as the dog's whole "day".

A few years ago a cat show was something unheard of, while now it is almost as common, and quite as popular as the dog show, and people are no longer ashamed to confess to a liking for cats lest they should be branded as hopeless old maids or bachelors. In fact puss is rapidly becoming re-habitated and if she has not exactly reached the position she held amongst the ancient Egyptians, she is at least thoroughly respectable, and occupies a definite position in society. She is even considered an acceptable present for one friend to offer to another, especially if it comes of aristocratic lineage, and the man or woman who should promise a friend an Angora, Persian or even a Maltese kitten would be sure of meeting with as much gratitude as if the prospective gift consisted of a thoroughbred pup or a supernaturally hideous dachshund. In most families now, the cat is no longer a despised, dependent but an honored member of the domestic circle, and it is nothing unusual to hear a person say—"We are so worried about our cat, she has been ill for several days and we are going to lose her; we have had the veterinary to see her, but he does not give us much encouragement." Once, and not long ago either, a sick cat was regarded by people who considered themselves humane, as something to be hustled out of doors and very likely killed as quickly as possible; sickness on the part of a cat being looked upon as unheard of presumption, for which the only adequate punishment was death. My love of all animals and my champion-

ship of poor kitty in particular, are so well known that my friends often ask me for advice when their cats are ill; knowing that I have nursed so many feline sufferers back to health, and smoothed the way to the grave for so many others, a sick animal being always cared for as tenderly in our house, as a human being. Therefore for the benefit of those who think their cats worth caring for, I reproduce the following simple, and excellent suggestions on the subject.

The Care of Cats When Sick.

"Cats are by no means as hardy as is suggested by the old adage that each cat has nine lives," remarked a veterinarian who makes a speciality of treating sick cats. "But there is no reason why, with proper care, a pet cat should not live to a very green old age. Cats should be fed regularly and at least twice a day. Bread and milk or oatmeal porridge and milk, the milk having a little hot water and a trifle of sugar added to it in chilly weather, should constitute their breakfast. Bread and broth with a little cooked meat is quite sufficient for their dinner. A little fresh fish may be given occasionally, and now and then a morsel of uncooked liver and meat, care being taken to remove all fat. Any vegetable for which the cat shows a fondness may be given with discretion.

"Remember to see that a cat always has access to plenty of fresh water and fresh grass, grass being a genuine panacea for all its minor troubles. The diseases of cats include, sore throat, bronchitis, pneumonia and consumption which are especially prevalent among them, as they are very susceptible to dampness. One of the first symptoms of illness is a rough and untidy coat. If this be accompanied by restlessness and languor it is safe to administer a dose of castor oil and provide the cat with a sheltered place until the effect has worn off.

"Where the presence of any kind of poison is suspected prompt and energetic action is necessary. A liberal dose of lukewarm water slightly salted generally has a good effect, but it is safest to give at once sweet oil or melted lard. After such an experience a course of cod liver oil is advised, with a generous diet. A little powdered sulphur made into a paste with lard or unsalted butter, and smeared upon the front paws, is an excellent thing to keep a cat in good condition, but care should be taken to keep it from all exposure to dampness until the effects of the dose disappear.

"Never scold, frighten, or shake a sick cat. It matters not how cross they may be at first, they soon come to understand the treatment is for their own comfort, and will quietly submit after a short while. Care must be taken to guard against their bite, however, as the bite of a cat is always a serious thing. In giving medicine the sick animal should be rolled in a sheet, its paws at its side, the mouth pressed open, and a bit of wood laid across the lower jaw just behind the eye teeth."

The leafy month which is always associated with roses and weddings will soon be with us, and of course the expectant bride is thinking about her trousseau, to the exclusion of all other mundane things. In fact the bridal trousseau forms such an important part of the early summer fashions that it is responsible for many of the most striking varieties of the season. There is simply no end to the variations which may be evolved just by the different cut of the skirts and the changes in trimming.

Of course the regulation wedding gown is now, as it always has been, of heavy silk or satin, but very many other wedding dresses, quite as pretty and much more becoming are made of white lace over taffata silk, or even of organdie muslin, if expense is an object to the bride. Nothing could be more dainty and girlish for a young bride than a simple dress of white organdie over taffata, or even China silk, and trimmed with lace and ribbon. But satin is the material most used and after all a satin dress which does not require to be veiled with anything and need not be lined with silk is not necessarily very expensive, as a satin of excellent appearance, and quite sufficient wearing qualities for such a purpose may be purchased at any of the best shops for seventy-five cents a yard. Narrow ruffles of tulle or chiffon form a most effective, and yet inexpensive skirt trimming for such dresses, and a panel front of plaited chiffon or lace is a very popular mode of finishing them. A tiny wreath of orange blossoms across the foot of this panel adds very much to the beauty of such a skirt which is otherwise perfectly plain. A guimpe neck and sleeves of lace or chiffon are a special feature of this season's wedding gowns, and they are not only very new, and dressy for summer weddings, but really a most economical fashion, if, as is usually the case they are made detachable as there is a perfectly finished evening dress all ready for use as soon as the guimpe and sleeves are removed.



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The organdie gowns are usually ruffled, elaborately trimmed with lace insertion and edging and finished with a sash of taffata silk and a bunch of orange blossoms on one shoulder. Some of the very latest wedding gowns of satin are made in princess style and open at one, or both sides over a panel of lace. Narrow revers covered with narrow puffed frills of white chiffon turn down from a yoke of lace, and the sleeves are perfectly plain, with little frills of lace at the top.

The very swell bridesmaid's costume is occasionally made of white satin, but colors are usually preferred no matter whether the material may be silk or organdie. Corded silk in pale yellow, pink and green makes ideal bridesmaids dresses with wide chiffon sashes ruffled across the ends, and tucked bodices with narrow frills of lace at intervals on the tucks. These gowns are usually accompanied by white chip hats in shepherdess shape trimmed with white plumes, and real flowers tucked under the brim. A very odd costume recently worn by a bridesmaid had a skirt of white cloth trimmed with folds of the same, and a tucked bodice of white taffata silk. The groups of tucks were outlined with guipure lace, and a striking touch of color was given by a jaunty little cape of heliotrope velvet falling from one shoulder. A white chip hat with white feathers and lilacs at the back, completed this odd costume.

Amongst the general features which distinguish both trousseau dresses, and regular summer outfits, a very special one is the piping of white, black or some contrasting color which nearly always appears as a finish on the bodice, or an edging for the folds on the skirt. Sometimes a silk cord is employed to give the same effect. Gathered ribbons, fine cordings, and tucks are seen everywhere and on every kind of dress. A very novel use of tucks is shown in a lately imported gown of gray nun's veiling which is tucked around the waist in vertical lines a little over five inches long. These tucks are very narrow, and separated by fully twice their own width, but they give the fashionable appearance of slenderness to the wearer, which is so much to be desired. Hand sewing of all kinds is another distinctive feature of dress decoration this season, and it is especially desirable in the form of drawn work. Silk and nun's veiling are both especially adapted to this kind of trimming, and flounces have drawn threads worked over, just as the linen tray clothes, and table covers have. Silk collars, frills, cuffs and different pieces for finishing dresses have this open-work line above a narrow hem. The hem itself is often added to the main portion with an open-work stitch of silk, and the corners are notted together, just exactly as you would finish a bureau cover you were working.

Grenadines and nets of different kinds, satin finished foulards and taffatas are the leading materials on the list for dressy summer costumes, not only for brides, but for everyone else.

ASTRA.

A GIRL'S DISCERNMENT.

She Saw Beneath the Exterior and Appreciated the Man.

John Marshall, even while Chief Justice of the United States, was negligent in dress. "His cravat—white by courtesy—was twisted into a creased wisp by his nervous fingers, and the knot was usually under his ear. He wore his coat threadbare and not too clean, his shoes were untied and the laces trailed in the dust, and his hat was pushed to the back of his head." His negligent dress was in keeping with his awkward figure and ungainly

manners; but the manners did not betray, nor the apparel proclaim, the man. Neither his awkwardness nor his untidiness was thought of by his family and admirers when they were in the presence of the statesman and the jurist, the husband and the father, the friend and the neighbor.

One person, a girl of fourteen, was not misled by John Marshall's clothes or manners when he was a young man and a captain in the army of the Revolution. Marion Harland, in "Some Colonial Homesteads," tells how Mary Ambler saw beneath the disguise of manners and dress, and appreciated the character of the tall, ungainly, ill dressed soldier of twenty-six. In the winter of 1781-2 a ball was held in the neighborhood of York, Virginia, to which Captain Marshall, reputed a young man of genius and bravery, was bidden. The fair damsels of the district, excited at the prospect of meeting him, began sportive projects for captivating the young soldier. Mrs. Carrington, the sister of Mary Ambler, the discerning maiden of fourteen, narrates what ensued.

"It is remarkable that my sister, then only fourteen, and diffident beyond all others, declared that we were giving ourselves useless trouble, for that she—for the first time—had made up her mind to go to the ball, though she had never been to a dancing school—and was resolved to set her cap at him and eclipse us all."

"This, in the end, was singularly verified. At the first introduction he became devoted to her. For my part, I felt not the slightest wish to contest the prize with her."

"She at a glance discerned his character, and understood how to appreciate it, while I, expecting to see an A lionis, lost all desire of becoming agreeable in his eyes when I beheld his awkward figure, unpollished manners and negligent dress."

Two years afterward they were married, the bride being under seventeen, and the groom twenty-eight years of age. They lived during forty-eight years an idyl of wedded bliss. She, within a year or two of their wedding, became an invalid, and until her death never knew a day of perfect health. He was the most chivalric of lovers, and his attention became more tender as her invalidism became chronic.

On each Twenty-second of February and Fourth of July the Marshall chariot was brought to the door in the early morning, and the judge, lifting the fragile woman into it, accompanied her to the house of a friend in the country, there to pass the day her nerves being too weak to endure the noise of cannon and guns.

The day before Mrs. Marshall died she tied about her husband's neck a ribbon to which was attached a locket containing some of her hair. He wore it always afterward by day and night, never allowing another hand to touch it. It was the last thing taken from his body after his death in July, 1835. Folded in his will was a paper on which was written a tribute to his wife on the first anniversary of her departure. An extract, quoted by the author already referred to, reads:

"December 25, 1832. This day of joy and festivity to the whole christian world is, to my sad heart, the anniversary of the keenest affliction which humanity can sustain. On the 25 of December, 1831, it was the will of heaven to take to itself the companion who had sweetened the choicest part of my life, had rendered toil a pleasure had taken all of my feelings, and was enthroned in the inmost recesses of my heart. Grief for her is too sacred ever to be profaned on this day, which shall be, during my existence, devoted to her memory."

"Having felt no prior attachment, she became at sixteen, a most devoted wife. All my faults, and they were to many, could never weaken this sentiment. It formed a part of her existence. Her judgment was so sound and so deep that I have often relied upon it in situation of some perplexity. I do not recollect once

to have regretted the adoption of her opinion. I have sometimes regretted its rejection."

A Washington mother, who had forbidden her children to mention the name of the evil one, was not able to attend church a few Sundays ago, and when her little boy, 8 years old, came home after service she asked him the subject of the sermon. He answered promptly; "It was about Jesus being taken up into the mountain by the—by the—gentleman who keeps hell."

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