

## Chat to . . . Boys and Girls.

One or two of my girls who are about starting off to the country for their holidays have asked my advice about their packing, their outfit and their "traps" generally, and among the latter I have advised a book of "soap-leaves." You know how difficult it is to safely stow away a cake of soap after it has been used, or a wet sponge—they are both troublesome things to pack if at all damp as any trace of moisture plays sad havoc in trunk or satchel. So if you can get the soap leaves which come in a book, covered with chamois or oil cloth I advise you all who look forward to a trip to have some—one leaf is just sufficient for washing the hands. Another great convenience for the traveller is a triple bag—that is three bags made of gray linen and lined with rubber or oil cloth and fastened together, forming a safe receptacle for sponge brushes and soap. Three silk, challis or cretonne bags with drawing strings will also be found very useful in holding your work and materials. Make a three sided foundation for your bags and sew one on each side of your triangle—thus you will find a fourth bag in the centre formed by the conjunction of the other three. One bag will hold your scissors, your thimble and spools, another your crotchet work, another your bit of sewing and so on—you will find them all useful and so handy to pick up and carry on the arm from house to hammock, from verandah to shady grove, wherever the sun drives you to seek shelter or fancy leads you.

At a pleasant farm-house where I boarded for a few weeks last summer, there were two such nice young girls spending their vacation—they were bright and jolly without being silly or noisy, and there is a very great difference I can tell you! These girls lived a great deal in the open air—of course that was one thing they came there for; they rowed upon the river when it was calm, went for long rambles in the woods, gathered and potted some lovely ferns and picked berries very often; yet they seemed to get a great deal of time for sewing I noticed, and without making a toil of their holiday were invariably employed with some pretty little bit of fancy-work; and as I saw one thing after another completed and laid away in what they called a work-box, I confess I felt very curious to know why they were so anxious to accomplish a lot of work in summer hours—surely I thought they cannot be making Christmas presents already, for although it is a capital plan to begin in hot weather, not many young people do so. Well one rainy day when we all gathered in my room for a sewing-bee and I had the pleasure of helping these young friends out of a little difficulty a certain heart-shaped pin-cushion was giving them (and if there is anything hard to fashion decently it is that particular article of toilet use) they became confidential and told me the object for which they were working. A nice respectable old lady they said who used to work for their mothers when they were small had lost the sight of one eye and was getting old and quite unable to do much more than her own housework. She could still manage to knit a little and with presents of tea and sugar from old friends, kept herself in food, but she was then in sore trouble about her stove, which was about worn out, having seen many years of service; having told her troubles to these bright young friends of mine she felt better for their kind sympathy and a hope held out for her encouragement that before cold weather came, she might be the happy possessor of a new stove. So, helping to bear the old lady's burden, and thus fulfilling one of Christ's laws, is it any wonder they were bright and happy at their work?

## BOOK FOR WOMEN

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I was so pleased to have them tell me their plan, which was to hold a sale, in the early autumn, after all the friends had returned to the city; a sale of fancy work, and nice home cookery—all to be made by themselves and their immediate school friends. "You see" said Mary the eldest of the two girls "some of us are not handy with the needle but love to mess in the kitchen—There is my friend Nellie who makes lovely cake, so she will help in that way, and Pauline makes delicious lemon jelly, Hattie and I like sewing and fusing over pretty, fancy things so we brought along all our bits of silk, plush lace ribbon and such things, to make whatever we could contrive, while still enjoying our holiday at this lovely old farm." How glad I was to help them! For of course the proceeds of this fair or sale were to go towards the old lady's stove and anything else for her comfort that they could get with the means so raised. Many a cosy hour we spent together planning and working till the work-box filled to overflowing, and we were so sorry when our stay in the country saw brought to a close. However our friendship thus formed has not ended there by any means, and I shall honor and love those dear unselfish girls, for the truly christian spirit in which they spent their vacation.

Now don't you think we might all enjoy our holidays very much better if we had in view some object of use or kindness toward somebody else. Next week I may perhaps give you an idea of some of the things we made for that sale in case you want to go and do likewise.

AUNT BELL

## Frills of Fashion.

The opening of the Salon in Paris, heretofore such an event in the fashionable world, has lost some measure of its fame as a representative inauguration of the new spring fashions, quite after the manner of all public social functions which serve the purpose of an opening parade of dress. Just as soon as an event of this kind has established a reputation for presenting a show of fashionable people in fashionable attire the tide promptly turns and there ensue objects of interest reserve their attractions for a later date when they can be less conspicuous as models of the leading modes.

Everything in the way of materials, between cloth and gauze, seems to be worn at the Salon, and pale blue is the popular color used for pretty touches of trimming as a contrast. One of the most striking effects in the new gowns is a combination of white satin and black cloth, which is put on in serpentine bands all over the princess foundation dress of satin, showing a narrow line of white between the bands. Black cloth cut out in arabesque designs over white satin forms another gown of this class. Black and white effects in every conceivable form are perhaps the leading features in dress if any one of two things can be said to lead in the midst of a variety so great that it seems almost impossible to be specific at all. A pretty idea for a black and white gown is carried out in white taffeta, trimmed with black chantilly lace in a festoon pattern. Two rows of this are sewn on around the skirt fully sixteen inches apart, forming a deep point in front and one on each side of the back. The space between is filled in with embroidered black silk polka dots, which cover the entire waist and sleeves.

Taffeta gowns in pale blue, with blue mousseline de soie sleeves, are among the latest fancies of fashion, and are trimmed with point d'esprit and straps of narrow black velvet ribbon. Very filmy and fairy-like materials form many of the gowns worn at the salon in the daytime, one striking illustration being a mauve mousseline de soie laid in tiny plaits all over the tunic and bodice. This was made over pale pink satin merveilleux, finished at the bottom with a shaped flounce of the mousseline. Cream guipure edged the tunic and the bodice around a yoke of white chiffon, dotted over with small lace applique designs.

Fashion has developed a variety of eccentric whims this season which add the coveted chic to many of the new gowns. The use of pique chemise vests in foulard gowns and cloth bands on elegant lace costumes quite reverse the order of things, but anything which can produce an unusual effect is the thing most sought after. Machine stitching, as a means of decorating our gowns, has a prominence it never had before, and the latest freak of all is the tailor-built gown of silk, which is a soft, dull faille or taffeta. A novel trimming seen on some of the foulard gowns is a rather wide band of white taffeta silk,

matching tucked with black silk and finished on each edge with a lace beading, through which narrow black ribbon is run. White cloth bands, over which narrower bands of blue cloth are stitched with white, trim a blue satin foulard, and a pretty vest for a blue nun's veiling is made of white faille embroidered with black silk dots, finished with a scalloped edge down the front, where it fastens with tiny black silk buttons.

The variations in the details of trimming are simply endless, and while it would seem that every possible change had been rung, some novel effect in decoration is constantly coming to the front. Ribbon work in flower designs appliqued on trims some of the crepe de chine gowns very prettily, and the foulards show all sorts of striking effects. One of these in blue and white made with a tunic, as almost every gown is this season, is finished with a deep ruff of white taffeta trimmed around with two folds of plain blue foulard, with a space between wide enough to admit of a narrow band of black applique lace. A narrower ruff edges the overdress and completes the bodice, falling from a yoke of lace. Other foulard gowns are trimmed with bands of velvet ribbon, and along the lower edge of each row Tom Thumb fringe is sewn.

Some of the prettiest foulards are in a cream white ground patterned in dainty pink. They are made, like all the light silks, on a white taffeta lining with an accordion plaiting at the bottom. A plaiting of the foulard forms the lower skirt of one stylish gown, and the overdress is trimmed with two rows of cream white festoon lace bordered on one edge with a tiny ruche of pink chiffon, which also edges the plaiting at the feet. The bodice has a yoke of cream lace over white silk, the lower portion being covered with pink chiffon, over which vertical bias bands of the foulard are arranged with spaces between strapped diagonally across with the lace on bands of white silk.

Transparent sleeves of chiffon matching the color in the pattern are a feature of the latest foulards. Lace is also used for this purpose, and a novel effect is obtained by making either the upper or the lower of the lower half of the sleeve transparent. Certainly the sleeves have about reached the limit of lightness, but they are so elaborately trimmed that we can almost forget the fulness we were so loath to give. It is a comfort to know that they cannot diminish much more, and as fashion is ever on the move the next change is obvious. The change is not in the immediate future, however, and we anticipate for the coming fall very much the same outlines in dress as we have now, unless, perhaps, we may be moulded to the form of the trumpet a little more carefully than at present.

With this slight forecast of fashion four months hence it is safe to predict that the soft, fine broadcloth will be the leading material for wool gowns, as they have been for the past season. The crepe de chine and nuns veiling gowns, which have gained such a hold on the popular fancy, will be very useful for semi-dress occasions next winter, in the pale gray and beige tints especially. Some of the prettiest models are run with fine lingerie tucks all over the tunic and bodice, meeting in slanting lines at the seam down the front of the overdress. This may be covered with a band of lace insertion or drawn together with a fancy stitch as so many of them are. Dainty gowns of crepe de chine are made with an unlined yoke and sleeves of Irish point. Corsets of lace, too, are a pretty finish. Bolero fronts of taffeta covered with lace are a dainty addition, and soft belts of black tulle fastened with a rosette are still another feature of the gray gowns.

A pretty model for nun's veiling, shown in the illustrations, is trimmed around the skirt with ruffs and groups of tucks with lace insertion between. The sleeves are tucked, and the bodice, with a lace yoke, is made very simply with small plaits at the belt, and a fichu drape of the material around the shoulders. A more striking gown of white taffeta, striped with a hair line of pale blue, shows an underskirt of plain white silk stitched on. This also forms a portion of the bodice, which is trimmed with lace. Another of the many models carried out in Irish point lace is made over pale yellow satin with plaitings of yellow chiffon, edged with ruchings, around the feet. Chiffon embroidered with pale pink and shirred into a flower effect fills in the vest opening on the bodice. Pale gray nun's veiling trimmed with ivory lace forms still another pretty gown with an under bodice of tucked gray taffeta silk.

A soft pink foulard spotted with black combined with cream lace and black velvet ribbon is the material of which another gown is made. An odd feature of another foulard of blue, patterned with white, is the trimming of white taffeta silk bands stitched with black silk and finished on the edge with a lace beading, through which

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narrow black velvet ribbon is run. This forms the yoke, and the bodice is trimmed with applique lace. One of the special novelties this season is the lace coat with a Medici collar. White embroidered muslin forms the vest and collar. Navy satin foulard forms another blouse, with a vest of plain blue lace tucked and stitched with white. The upper part of the sleeves are formed of this, and the inner vest is of white tucked muslin.

In muslin dresses here are two pretty models for the graduation gowns so much in demand just at present. One is of white organdie trimmed with rows of gathered white satin ribbon, and the other is of white silk dotted muslin over white taffeta, and is trimmed with ruches of white chiffon. The vest is of chiffon and the wide lace collar of lace. Many of the muslin gowns have lace yokes, and bolero or Eton jackets of lace.

### ERA OF THE PLAIN GIRL.

Reasons why Beauties are not Wanted in Department Stores.

"I'm very much afraid I cannot find a place behind our counters for you," said the appointment clerk of the big department store, with a negative shake of his head, which implied all manner sorrowful things. The applicant, a young girl of remarkable beauty, turned away with a sigh, and a shower of tears seemed imminent.

"Oh, dear!" she faltered. "I understood you needed at least ten saleswomen, and I certainly could furnish you the best of references as to my ability to sell. This is the seventh place I have applied for this morning. I've no luck at all."

"Why, I thought you said you were hard pressed for competent saleswomen!" remonstrated the reporter as the beautiful young woman vanished.

"Well, so I did," retorted the clerk. "Then why did you not give that one a chance? Surely her beauty?"

"Her beauty?" interrupted the clerk.

"That's the sole reason why I refused her, and it is also, perhaps, the sole reason why she did not obtain any of the six other places she sought. This is the era of the plain girl in business, and the girl whose beauty is so insistent that none may deny it has to step aside for her sisters who are less bountifully endowed with charms of face and figure. You will find that is the case in every important department store in New York, not to mention scores of retail establishments of less magnitude. Not that there is any aversion to a modicum of beauty in the saleswoman; rather that is often to be desired; but pronounced loveliness is entirely too attractive both to its possessor and contemplator to facilitate the interest of employers. Go into any large retail store in the shopping districts and you will see scores of saleswomen who are downright plain, although not positively ugly, and an equal number of girls who might be set down as pretty without stretching the truth; but you will seldom find one whose charm of face or grace of form is so near perfection as to hold you spell bound. Once there was a great establishment set up in the heart of the shopping section, whose saleswomen were

all conspicuous for their beauty. The establishment made a specialty of feminine loveliness behind its counters and largely advertised the fact. What was the result? Why, the store was crowded from morning to night with persons who came to take in beauty show, but rarely remained to purchase merchandises. Dudes and mashers were always hanging around, and, lost in the admiration of their own charms, the beautiful saleswomen had little time to devote to their real mission in the store, which evidently went up the commercial flue with a rush.

"No a really beautiful girl will not do for the big metropolitan stores. Her advent behind the counter is only an invitation for customers to stop and stare, for a woman to become envious and consequently prejudiced against the establishment which retains her; for fellow clerks to become jealous of her superior attractions, and for loppish male shoppers to flirt with her. She may be a paragon of modesty, virtue and innocence, but still the fact remains that she is a beauty, has probably been told so often and is not liable to forget it, and that in all likelihood, she will render conspicuous the salient features of her prettiness rather than to keep them under cover to the promotion of her employer's interests.

Another reason for this opposition to the very beautiful saleswoman is that she is rarely clever at making sales, being too much absorbed in her personal affairs, whereas the plain girl who must rely on her mental abilities to run the battle of life, cultivates her persuasive facilities and becomes an expert in the manipulation of a convincing tongue. To be a good saleswoman one must be free from self-consciousness, and who could expect a strikingly handsome creature to forget herself?

"The life of a beauty behind a counter is often rendered miserable by envious shop girls whose plainness of face and form she makes doubly noticeable by comparison. The ugly ones grow to hate her, and leave nothing undone to annoy her. She is always under their stealthy surveillance, and her slightest infringement of the rules governing the deportment of the employees is instantly reported at headquarters in hope that it may bring about her discharge. Sometimes to accomplish their purpose malicious clerks will go to great lengths, although taking care not to expose themselves. Such conduct, of course, is death to that discipline and thorough organization of forces which is necessary to the success of large enterprises, so it has become absolutely impracticable for department stores to employ beauties."

### High Lights.

Fortune is very human; we hold off her choice gifts by hinting for them.

The value of a dollar depends on whether you earn it or have it given to you.

When life begins to give man the cold shoulder he decides that he is tired of life.

According to the germ theory, the only safe way to clean a house is to set fire to it.

Some persons struggle so hard to climb in a social world that bystanders can hear their soles squeak.

A woman begins a dairy when she first falls in love, and again when the baby commences to say bright things.

The lover who sends a messenger boy across the ocean will probably make just that much more fuss than other men when his time comes to go down and see if the front door is locked.