

Chat to . . . Boys and Girls

Since the bright spring weather has come, I have been frequently asked for some out-of-door games for my young people, and I am very much pleased to give them the best I can think of, for I am a firm believer in good healthful, out-door exercises for boys and girls, and when you are tired of the more active and noisy games we will try and "thick up" some that may be enjoyed while resting on the verandah, under a tree or even on the back stairs, which is often a favorite place or resort for taking breath.

The game called "Buttons" reminds me of "tiddledly winks" which was so much played in fashionable circles at one time. "Buttons" is a simple game and one which involves no expense—a shallow hole is dug in the ground, and each player stands twelve feet away, and tosses a button towards the hole. When all have tossed, the player whose button is nearest to the hole has first chance to put the other buttons in the hole by striking them with his thumb. All buttons thus placed belong to the player, but as soon as he misses, the person who was next best in the first tossing takes his turn; an account is kept and of course he or she who succeeds in putting the largest number of buttons in the hole, wins the game. In striking the button the hand is held stiffly the thumb being extended, and the motion being made with the whole hand.

"Wolf" is a great favorite with some of my juvenile friends—perhaps you know it, but as any number may play it, and it is a fine rousing game for driving away "the blues" which is the worst wolf that can attack a boy or girl, I will tell you how we play it in our yard—Of course the game is commenced by what is called "counting out" and for this, as you know, some very queer rhymes are used as for instance:

"One I-zol, two I-zol zig-zol zan
Bobtail, vinegar, ickie and tan;
Baron-scarum, virgin-marum,
We, wo, wack"

And another says:

"One-ery two-try, dickery, davery
Halibone, crack-shote tenery lavary,
Discoctin, American pine
Humbley, bumbley, twenty nine."

And the person to whom the last word comes, is declared to be the wolf who must then hide, while the other players remain by the goal, which is usually a tree, a stone or some other large object. About a minute is allowed for the wolf to hide, and when the time is up those at the goal call out "Coming, say nothing" if the wolf is not ready he says "No" and a little more time is allowed him. The players then commence a search for him and whoever is successful calls out "Wolf, wolf" whereupon all run for the goal. The wolf dashes from his hiding place and tries to touch any of the players, as they hurry towards the goal—if he succeeds the person or persons touched also become wolves; and the first one caught must be wolf in next game. The wolf need not wait to be found, but may run out and attack the players, whenever he thinks there is a chance to touch one of them, if he can reach the goal before any of them, he can frequently touch a number of them as they come up. The wolves may all hide in one den if they wish.

And now while you are resting, sit in a circle or line if you please and try a game of "comesy come"—one is chose for beginner and she says "comesy come" the others asking "what do you come by?" She will then give the initials of some object which

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can be seen, and whoever guesses first the correct object corresponding to the initials, then takes his turn. This is really a parlor game, but may be played out of doors—for instance I say I come by C. L. meaning clothes-line or G. G. which might be "green grass" or "garden gate" and so on—any object in sight of all may be chosen, and it is wonderful how puzzling the initials sometimes are.

I am sure you have all played "Ball" and enjoyed it too, but I was not very well able to run in my young days, so I know nothing of any such game, except "string ball" which perhaps you do not know, so I will tell you how it is played:—

A rubber ball is suspended from the limb of a tree, or if that is not convenient, from the end of a stick projecting from a window. The string should be about twelve feet long, and the ball should hang about four feet from the ground. The players stand in a circle around the ball, and the game is commenced by the leader striking the ball with his hand. If one of the players does not catch the ball, before it swings back to its original position, the leader scores one point and is allowed another stroke. The leader remains "at the bat" so to speak until the ball is caught, and his aim is obviously to send the ball in the direction least expected by the other players. The person catching the ball takes the leader's place; and the score of each player is carefully kept, and the one having the highest is of course declared the winner.

I have had a good deal of fun over this game and I love to look back over the happy school-days so long ago past; but do you know my boys and girls that the days upon which I lost my temper over any game, or did the least unkind thing, stand out in my memory to this hour like an ugly black mark on a pretty picture, and the remembrance has so often grieved me, that I here confess it to you in hope my experience may warn you to strive for the mastery over jealousy, quick temper and every other evil, that is so prone to rise up in the play-ground and spoil the games. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love in honor preferring one another" is an excellent motto for us all.

AUNT BELL.

Frills of Fashion.

Among the small accessories of dress shown in the shops, neckware has a very conspicuous place. From the simple bow of tulle to the elaborate fichu there is a wide range of styles and materials, something for everyone and for every gown. Both colored and white tulle bows are worn, and there are colored and white gauze necks with frilled ends and gauze stock collars with a short bow in front, finished on the ends with a tiny ruche. Lace stock with a fold of colored velvet around the upper edge and a sailor's knot or tied bow are among the prettiest of all the array; but dainty things are also made of mousseline de soie, with lace corners at the back and applique lace sewn on the ends. One pretty idea is a stock and fichu combined made of fine gauze laid in folds around the neck, crossing at the back, and forming revers which have the effect of a fichu, pointing downward to the belt. Pretty fichus are made of chiffon with the applique lace flounces scattered all over them. Very useful stocks are made of taffeta silks, with a full graceful bow daintily hem-stitched on all the edges. One very essential point to be considered in buying the stocks is that the style shall be becoming and the color match the hat trimming. Crepe de chine and lace are combined very prettily; for example, make the stock of crepe de chine with lace corners turning over the back, and lace around the neck tying in a knot, with rather long ends in front. White wash silk with plenty of hem-stitching makes very pretty stock in this style, to wear over cotton shirts waists. The very best materials must be used for all the neckware, as its freshness disappears soon enough under the best conditions.

Embroidered muslins well covered with incrustations of applique lace are one of the most fashionable materials for thin

gowns. Made over mauve, blue or pink taffeta, with a tuck of black in the finish, they are charming.

Pretty evening gowns for summer are made of India mull elaborately trimmed with yellow Valenciennes lace. They are made over white silk and finished with yellow satin ribbon bows.

Very small gold buttons adorn the bodices of net, lace and crepe de chine gowns.

Large hats which are something between the old-fashioned picture hats and the poke shapes are the coming style for mid-summer wear, and the novelty in trimming is covering the inside of the brim with flowers.

The ugly fashion of veiling the flowers on our hats with mousseline or tulle has reappeared again.

See that your hat matches your costume if you want the very latest touch of fashion.

Straw designs wrought out on silver and gold cloth, net and chiffon insertions, figure largely among the millinery materials. A new and very stylish combination is a holland colored straw trimmed with black velvet and white chiffon, and this sort of hat is especially good style for morning wear.

For evening dress young girls' gowns are made of tulle trimmed with rose petals or green leaves, the former on pink tulle over pink silk being especially attractive.

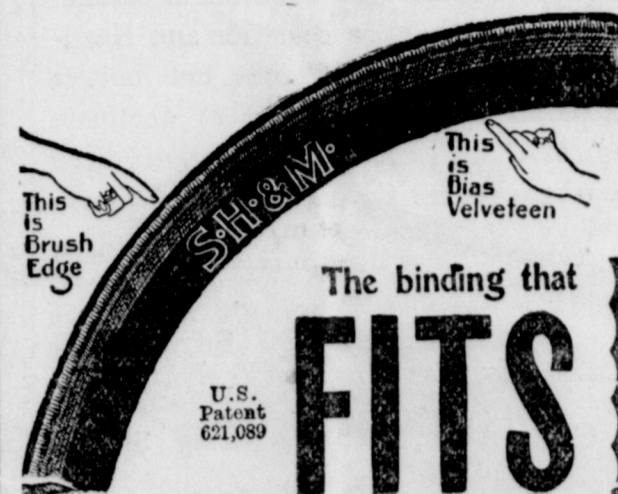
The most surprising feature of the evolution of fashionable dress is the fertile imagination of the dress designers. There are gowns without end, and hardly any two are alike; and there is a diversity in the models quite equal to all the demands. The old saying that it is impossible to please every one certainly has no significance when applied to variety in dress which has blossomed out this season, and new modes are constantly coming in from the temples of fashion in Paris to swell the list.

There seems to be something for everyone, except possibly the woman well on in years, who thinks she must wear things especially designed for the old. It is quite useless to inquire for such things in the shops, as you are informed very decidedly that there are no old ladies [any] more, at least not old in the sense of wearing unfashionable things. The old lady's garments may be simple and suitable, but they must have the fashionable cut and finish. Never were the designers more skillful in the use of materials, more successful in the combination of trimmings or more refined in the harmony of color, and it is a literal truth that there are the most attractive up-to-date models for women of all ages, and for the ample figures as well as the sylphs.

Very attractive simplicity distinguishes many of the new bodices, but is mostly that variety of simplicity brought about by a measure of extravagance unparalleled by any of the more elaborate gowns.

Both black and white nets, covered with an embroidery of sequins and cream applique lace, are made up over white silk in princess form. For evening wear the bodice may be décolleté with long transparent sleeves, but whether high or low the net falls in plain, graceful lines to the feet. The simplicity, however, is all in the lines, as the material is both elegant and expensive.

Cream and white nets, elaborately trimmed all over the ruchings of net or chiffon, formed into various designs, or set in straight rows, with chiffon paintings between, make very fashionable evening gowns for summer. These are made over colored taffeta, and if you try for the very smartest combination, use ecru lace over



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yellow silk. The yellow is charming too, under cream nets. White point d'esprit is a very fashionable material for summer gowns, this variety of dress being shown in the shops with the white organdies and made up in very much the same way. Ruches, frillings of ribbon insertions and frills of lace are the trimming. One encouraging point about these gowns is that white organdy is used for the foundation lining quite as often as silk, making them much less expensive. If you can afford it, use the silk foundation, but it is not a necessity for the net any more than it is for the organdy gowns.

Any sort of trimming which involves an endless amount of labor seems to be favored for the muslin dresses and ruches, fullness and tucks abound. White organdies are striped around little more than an inch apart with narrow black velvet ribbon, covering either the upper or the lower half of the skirt, the bodice and sleeves. Another novel effect in trimming is made with narrow bias folds of white organdy stitched on a colored organdie a little below the upper edge of each one. The folds are hardly a half inch wide and are set on two inches apart all around the upper half of a plain pink organdy skirt made with a deep gathered flounce below. Folds stripe the bodice and the tops of the sleeves.

Colored organdies are trimmed with narrow lace-edged ruffles of white organdy and this idea of combination in muslin gowns is shown again in a violet satin striped muslin, spotted with white. White muslin spotted with violet in exactly the same pattern, only the satin stripes are white, forms a deep band all around the overdress and the finish on the bodice.

All sorts of pretty effects are brought out in the thin gowns with use of narrow black velvet ribbon. It edges lace insertion and forms little straps with buttons or buckles at the ends. It is put on in lattice work designs, either covering the front of a bodice or forming an epaulette effect over the shoulders and arranged over the fastening in the skirt at the back. Stitched bands, which are a feature of trimming this season, are also put on in this same manner, covering the front of the bodice and skirt.

It goes without saying that the smartest gowns of the season are made of fine, light weight cloth, nun's veilings and foulard silks. Cloths has the lead, however, and it is the very light colors that predominate. Pale gray and beige are much worn, but the most dressy cloth costumes are in pale pink and blue. Again the stitched bands are the finish all around the tunic, with the circular trim on the skirt, and edges of the bodice below the round yoke of Venetian lace. Black and white striped silk makes an effective yoke and collar for a pale pink cloth. Cream cloth with a yellow lace yoke is charming if it has the fashionable touch of black outlining the yoke and upper edge of the collar, with possibly a rosette bow of velvet at one side of the bodice.

Cloth gowns are worn on the most dressy occasions in the daytime, and anything the market affords in the way of handsome lace applique and insertion cannot be too elegant for their decoration. Black and white embroidery is another very stylish trimming, but if you aim for the ultra smart effects in fashion have your lace dyed to match the color of your gown. Embroidery in colored wool and chenille or a mixture of silk, gold thread and chenille is another phase of trimming in these dressy cloth gowns. This in a dainty vine outlines the guimpe bodice and the overdress where it opens down the front. This sort of overdress suggests the old fashioned polonaise, which has been revived again, but it is built on very new fashioned lines, quite destitute of any fulness, except directly at the bottom. One pretty gown of tan canvas made with a polonaise has three narrow frills of taffeta silk of the same color around the edge and three stitched bands of the canvas around the skirt.

NEW DUTIES OF PARENTS.

Nose, Ear, and Eyelash Culture and its Practical Application.

The responsibilities of parents seem to be increasing. Formerly when a child was born with a pug nose and grew up with the same style of nasal appendage the father and mother were sorry if the nose didn't please, but their conscience was easy. Likewise if their young hopeful's ears were of

the aspect which is delicately called alert they were grieved but not remorseful.

It is no such easy going for parents to day. Moulding character is somewhat out of date in these days of newfangled child culture, but moulding noses has supplied a new outlet for parental energy. "A tiny little nose," says one authority, "may be changed and much improved in shape. It can be enlarged by gentle but persistent massage. It can also be lengthened by a series of gentle pulls, steadily and continuously applied." This authority, however, admits that he should hesitate at the nose pulling in the case of boys, as they generally get plenty of it sooner or later. "A nose too generous in size," he continues, "may be compressed by means of an ingenious little instrument a good deal like a clothespin. If properly applied it cannot injure the nose, as it acts simply by diminishing the flow of blood to the nose."

Of course the ear question is settled now. If a person grows up in this day and generation with outstanding ears he will be at liberty to rise up and call his parents shiftless, to say the least. Another point to which painstaking parents are invited to give their attention to is the care of the eyebrows. A judicious and persistent application of vaseline to the arch where these desirable items should grow is said to work wonders. As children do not now wear long and heavy bangs, another piece of advice is, perhaps, not necessary just at present, but it may be stowed away for future reference. It is given on the authority of an old family doctor, and, though it sounds a good deal like an old wives' tale he vouched for it. He was present one day when a little girl came in. Her golden hair was hanging in the way which has been celebrated in song and story, down her back. Also a heavy bang was hanging over her forehead, reaching almost to her eyes. Now, the doctor declared that if the bang was allowed to hang over the eyebrows it would be at the cost of the latter, because, as he said, "hair eats hair." Maybe this is the solution of the problem of baldness.

However that may be, the fact remains that few persons seem to have any idea that the eyebrows and eyelashes should receive especial care. The use of vaseline is good for the eyelashes as well as the eyebrows, and when it is judiciously applied it will have a very perceptible effect on them making them less likely to fall out or be rubbed out. It is the reckless way in which people rub their eyes which is to a great extent responsible for their scarcity of lashes. It is almost always the lower lid which bears the brunt of this rubbing, and the result is apparent in the much smaller quota of lashes which the lower lid always has. This is another direction in which parents are expected to look out for physical well being of their children. There was a time when even cross-eyed people did not dream of reproaching their parents for negligence. Those were palmy days for parents. In future, when young people come of age they will be counting the eyelashes and taking a whole Bertillon system of measurement of their ears and noses to find out whether their parents have done the square thing by them.

In fact, this physical training may readily be made to supercede old-fashioned forms of punishments even with mothers who stand by the old theories. Instead of sending a child superfluous to bed, he could be condemned to wear a clothespin on his nose for an hour. Instead of giving him a foolish spanking he could be required to undergo fifteen minutes of nose pulling, and so on. This method would have the advantage of combining practical and beneficial results with moral discipline and could be indefinitely extended to include such faults of physique as sloping ears, pigeon toes, round shoulders, stubby nails and so on.

Repatee has probably lost as many men their reputations.

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