

## Frills of Fashion.

The autumn season for weddings and wedding gifts recalls the experience of a young woman who is blessed with the richness of abundant girl friendships, but who for several years has been marrying off her companions, and giving on each occasion from the meagreness of her young spinster store, until now she threatens to take steps which shall enable her to get back the equivalent.

The unique method which she has about decided to employ is to issue cards of invitation for the celebration of a birthday which shall not be too far distant, (all this of course in case she does not herself get married first, though the young spinster does not herself mention this proviso,) and these invitations will indicate that gifts are in order.

But to make this scheme work she may have to hurry up, for it is frequently suggested that the fashion of making wedding presents has been carried to such an extent that there is the possibility that it may 'go out.'

Many a bride on the receipt of an avalanche of wedding gifts for days previous to her marriage is quite overwhelmed by the feeling of obligation which she must hereafter maintain toward all these people.

'It makes me quite blue,' I heard one say. Another said the 'remembrance was touching,' but a third only revels in her added possession, and when she had been married, three months, issues cards for a tea to which all the persons whose names are recorded in the wedding gift book are invited, and she pays off her 'obligation' at the rate of 2s. a head.

More conscientious girls, and those who cannot go to the accumulated expense of a tea, are deciding in the event of matrimony to issue on their cards little mottoes 'Please omit presents, just as 'Please omit flowers' is sometimes inserted in funeral notices.

It is generally supposed that women regarded their wedding rings as 'sacred,' remarked a jeweler yesterday, 'but as a matter of fact they don't.' Superficially they may give you this impression, but when you come right down to it they don't let a little matter like sentiment stand in way of style. Style in wedding rings? Why, to be sure. The ring that is now used is a narrow circle of gold which looks like little more than a guard for the other rings on the finger. But that isn't the point.

What I want to emphasize is the fact that women who were married years ago and whose wedding rings are the old style, massive affairs, are coming in every day to have them altered to conform to the present style. Every elderly woman with married daughters of their own seem to have little sentiment in the matter, and have their heavy bands shaved down to the size required by the present fashion. I may be criticized for telling a professional secret, but I don't care. It seems like sacrilege to me, but then I'm only a man.

### Wonderful Watches.

One of the most comical watches I ever saw was set in a baby's skull, said a jeweler, says a writer in London Tit-Bits. A round hole about the size of a crown-piece was hollowed out of the top, and a gilt chronometer was therein affixed. The skull, enamelled and decorated, finds a place on an oak bracket in a private drawing room. It is said to have some romantic association; be this as it may, the owner values it highly. Twenty-eight diamonds encircle the watch, and two bands of rubies take the place of teeth. I believe its value is not less than £800.

A certain society lady wears a pretty watch set in a bracelet of human skin. The timekeeper has nothing to recommend it, being of orthodox type, but the girdle that holds it has a history. Composed of the hide of an African chief, the wearer guards it with superstitious diligence—it brings luck, she says. Rumor goes that a favorite actress daily wears a watch, the chain to which is made of finely twisted strands of the tanned skin of a notorious murderer.

Losing the second finger of his left hand, a wealthy gentleman paid an enormous price for an artificial member, so artistically manufactured as to defy any but close scrutiny. To hide the joining of stump and dummy he ordered a ring, in which was set a miniature watch, no larger than a six-penny piece. This baby timekeeper is of keyless action, keeps excellent time, and its dial is decorated with blue forget-me-nots and wild pansies; the hands gilded, and the figures painted deep purple. So tiny is this watch, that few notice it—it seems like a gem of many colors to the casual eye, and what is more to the point, it hides the disfigurement of the wearer.

A watch on a finger nail sounds like a penny novelette. Believe me or not I tell

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you that a lady, who frequently orders rings, brooches, etc., at this establishment, boasts a wee chronometer on the third finger of her right hand. I will tell the story exactly as it was related to me. Trapping her finger, the nail refused to grow, and a false one of delicate, pinky tint was ordered. Having money to throw away she sent the false nail to a miniature watchmaker, and three weeks later she surprised and shocked her friends by offering a hand in greeting, the nail of which gave forth a musical 'tick-tick.' It is said that many of her friends copied her by ordering bracelets, brooches, and rings beset with microscopic timekeepers.

A professional strong man always appears in public with a gaudy belt, in the centre of which a watch is established. The belt is of leather, and studded with the medals won during a career of ten or more years. The watch was given to him by a lady admirer, and is studded with diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

Perhaps a watch set in the human body may sound rather tragical. Yet a minute specimen of timekeeper wanders wherever its owner will, as the upper part of the leg supports the tiny marker of fleeting hours. Suffering from cancer, a hole was left in the thigh after the operation; and desirous of filling up space, our hero established a watch therein, which is held in place by a golden chain embracing the leg, easy of removal when winding up and regulation are required.

Watches in scarf-pins are not uncommon, and only a few weeks ago we provided a gentleman with a pair of cuff links, a tiny watch being placed on each fastener.

In fancy pins for ladies' evening wear, we frequently establish diminutive timekeepers, and rather pretty these look when the hair is nicely dressed. Watches on the outside of satchels and purses threaten to become popular, and dainty chronometers set in the palms of gloves are sported in Paris. We also hear that tiny watches are to be installed in the borders of handkerchiefs, readily detached when they require the attentions of the laundress. This is going a little too far.

But we know that many Continental gentlemen of silence are wearing buttons every fastener being a time keeper of some kind. And watches are being worn as skirt-pins by ladies. Even garters do not escape. A pair of dainty silver things were recently so embellished; the watches thereon being about the size of a half-penny, with gem-studded brims and gilt faces. When I tell you that a lady lately desired us to fit a watch on her travelling-flask, you will not care to solicit further information.

### Styles in Jewels.

Bracelets and anklets, as burdensome in appearance as shackles, and heavily linked chains are accepted as the latest mode in jewelry by well-gowned women. They first came out in Paris last spring, and were worn exclusively on the ankles, with the short bicycle skirts that were there fashionable. When they were imported to this country it was naturally thought they were to be worn on the wrists, but the public eye is at last being opened, however, by two New York women, who have just returned from Paris, and who wear them about the ankles, or just at the top of the boot when donned in their sporting clothes. It is said on authority that several other women have already been measured for them. The most beautiful ones are undoubtedly those that are studded with uncut stones. But one is admissible, and it should be worn on the left foot.

This tendency for massive, barbaric jewelry is also noticed in the bands of gold of exquisite Etruscan workmanship which are worn low on the forehead with dinner or evening gowns; and in the heavy chains that fall to the knees after being wrapped several times around the throat. Suspended at the end of them there is often a small single eyeglass, a diminutive fan or an odd little notebook. The revival of this fashion of wearing chains, it is interesting to reflect, originated in Rome at a fashionable bazaar for the benefit of a convent, when three long chains of cut jets were strung by the nuns and offered for sale. They were brought by two New York women and one French woman. Afterward a large demand for them was made in Paris, and the inventive city was

soon taxing its powers to present them in numerous forms and styles. Those made of gun metal with pearls at regular intervals are now regarded as one of the newest and best styles to wear.

At present it is also a fad to collect semi-precious stones, such as amethysts, aquamarines, moonstones, topazes, Mox canals and others, to have set in a long gold chain. Frequently they can be packed up very cheaply at old curio shops. About thirty of them are necessary to fill in properly a chain of moderate length. Besides the cost of the chain and the stones at least \$1 or \$2 a piece must be allowed for the setting of them. The size, shape and color of the stones make the chain very interesting.

### Novel Dancing Contest.

There was recently a discussion in Rome as to the number of steps which an expert dancer could make in a given time, and, in order to decide the matter definitely, it was arranged to give a ball and to award prizes to those dancers who excelled in this respect. The competition began at ten o'clock in the evening and ended at five o'clock next morning.

At the close it was recorded that the best record has been made by a woman, who had danced 28,000 steps, of which 8,000 were waltz steps, and that next to her came another woman, who had danced 21,000 steps. To these two, therefore, the first and second prizes were awarded. The record of the men who competed was not satisfactory, as not one of them succeeded in dancing even as many as 15,000 steps.

If we reckon that two dance steps are equivalent to one step which a person takes when walking we shall find that the lady who won the first prize and who was crowned queen of the ball covered at least two miles during the seven hours that she was dancing.

### Cloud Over the Honeymoon.

A temporary cloud has just darkened the honeymoon of twenty newly married couples at Poelitz a hamlet in Pomerania, says the correspondent of the London Telegraph. The new Burgemeister has been acting as registrar, thinking that the duties of that functionary devolved upon him ex officio. After having joined together in civil wedlock some score of pairs, with all the parental advice usually imparted by a Teuton registrar on such occasions, the authorities discovered that the Burgemeister had unwittingly committed an error, seeing that he was not ex officio registrar as well; so that the twenty marriages were illegal. All the ceremonies will have to be performed over again. It is to be hoped that none of the contracting parties will take advantage of the situation to sever the knot they thought securely tied.

### Paper and Envelopes.

There is a tendency to use writing paper as thin as our frocks. Gray, faintly plaided stationery in chiffon weight, is a June novelty, suggesting summer matters. For notes, gilt and silver-edged cards have come in again, but they must not be more than four inches long. In large, square and oblong sizes, with sealing-wax to wax, women who liked pronounced writing paper are buying pink, green, blue, violet papers and envelopes. 'Bond and parchment vellum, in white, are the color and surface regularly supplied now to highest-class trade,' says an authority. 'The same element calls for everything which is in passing fashion, but uses the bond and vellum without regard to momentary mode. The surfaces of these papers are neither so smooth as the glazed styles of a few seasons ago nor so rough as the Irish linen, which tried the pen and the patience.'

### Strange Wedding in High Life.

In St. Andrews Church, London, recently, an English girl was married to a Chinaman.

Society wasn't scandalized; society in England takes things coolly and realizes that there aren't enough rich Englishmen to marry all the girls of aristocracy; besides there's the millionaire to decrease the chances of 'the superfluous woman.'

The bride was Mabel Charlotte Maud Murray, daughter of Mr. and Murray Burnet. She was appropriately gowned

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in Chinese silk and attended by three bridesmaids.

The bridegroom was the Hon. Tseng Chao Ewung, son of the Hon. Tseng Yuan Ten, of the Chinese Legation.

The bride was given away by her father; the best man was Taotai Chang, Secretary of Legation. The members of the Legation gave costly presents of jewelry and Chinese banners and ornaments enlivened the richly furnished parlors of the bride's parents where the reception was held.

### Buttons in Brigades.

In Paris and London there are 'Button-hole Brigades' that actually plan what flowers should be worn during certain seasons. It is important that ladies should study the following code to make sure that their escorts wear the correct flower upon certain occasions. For the summer of 1899, flowers as follows are to be worn by men:

1. For the early constitutional, Russian violets.
2. For the afternoon calls, dark red carnation.
3. At the summer theatre, white carnation.
4. At dinner parties, orchid.
5. At the dance, gardenia.

It is curious to remember in this connection that the fashion for men to wear flowers had its origin in the days, when Louis XVI., in careless mood picked the pretty star of a potato flower and stuck it in his button-hole.

### Danger of Rice Throwing at Weddings.

An example of the dangerous nature of the practice of throwing rice at weddings, occurred at Charing, near Ashford, in Kent, England, immediately after the marriage of Canon Carter, of Canterbury Cathedral, and Miss Sayer, of Prett Place. Just as the couple were leaving the bride's house for their honeymoon, a shower of rice struck the horses, some of it entering their ears. This caused them to bolt, with the result that the carriage was overturned. Both of its occupants were severely shaken and bruised, and the shock sustained by the lady was such that the honeymoon trip had to be temporarily abandoned.

### Abd Habit.

Now just stop and argue it out yourself. Did you ever see the time when you improved matters any by worrying? Worry is one of the most useless drains that can be put upon the nervous system, and for that reason, it is not right to oneself. In legal affairs an unjust tax is condemned and it should be the same in the management of oneself. If the energy that is lost in worry were used in eliminating the cause for worry, there would not be nearly as much unhappiness in the world.

### EVOLUTION OF THE BROILERS.

Formerly Confined to a Season, They May Now Be Bought the Year 'Round.

The hen commonly stops laying during at least a part of the winter, and begins laying again in January and continues to lay until early spring when, naturally it she were not disturbed, she would begin to sit on her eggs and hatch out chickens. When these chickens come to be big enough

to from a pound to a pound a half each, dressed, they are called broilers, and as such the young, tender and delicious chickens are sold. The chicken, of course remains at a suitable size for broiling only a comparatively short time, and when it gets too big for that it becomes a spring chicken, still young and excellent, but to be roasted, or cooked in some other manner than on the gridiron, being now too bi for broiling.

With chickens hatched out by hens, and with the great majority of hens sitting along at about the same time, broilers came into market during a certain time of the year, just as vegetables formerly did, before we began getting them from the South, and from under glass. There were some broilers scattered along before or after, but most of them came into market in the late spring and early summer. Years ago, and not not so very many either, twenty years or so, there was a pretty well defined broiler season, lasting a month or six weeks. Then came cold storage, and by that means the broiler season was extended two or three months or more. Some part at least of the surplus broilers, that would otherwise have been permitted to grow into spring chickens, were killed and put away in the cold storage houses to be drawn on as required, and so the broiler season, or the period in which broilers could be procured, was materially lengthened.

Then came what is known as the hot-house broiler, an incubator hatched chicken raised in a brooder. With cold storage the natural broiler season had been prolonged with incubators it was anticipated, and finally it was lengthened indefinitely. There are now, scattered in various parts of the country, hundreds of poultry farms, using incubators, that are devoted solely to the production of broiler chickens for the market, some of them large establishments one in a Western State turning out 100,000 broilers in a year. The broiler farms have their seasons of greatest production, but there are more or less hot-house broilers, raised at all seasons, so that it is possible nowadays to buy fresh broilers every day in the year.

Although the consumption of Chocolate throughout the world is enormous, it would be still greater if its value as a food were generally recognized. Thirty-three million pounds of Chocolate-Menier are consumed every year, but this might easily be doubled if the public were aware of the fact that it is an ideal nourishment. It unites in a convenient form every quality necessary to nutrition and it can be assimilated by the most delicate digestion. Unlike Tea or Coffee it contains nothing injurious to the nerves, but, on the contrary, it tones and stimulates in a natural manner. Chocolate-Menier is a pure and health-giving food.

'Oh! Good morning! 'cheerily cried the Good natured Man, 'I hope I see you well.' 'If you don't,' the Crusty Curmudgeon tartly retorted, 'you'd better consult an oculist.'

'My son and I are in a very droll position just now!'

'I'm afraid he is going to get married, and he is afraid I am going to get married.'

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