

Chat to . . . Boys and Girls.

"Good morning, my lads and lassies, how glad I am to meet your bright young faces again—Have you tried any of the games we talked over last week? I am sure you would have some fun out of them; and now I think perhaps this week's corner will furnish what we might call, a pleasant accompaniment to the games, or rather a supplement to them; but first, let me read you a letter just received which will give you a clue to my meaning;

Windsor N. S.

Dear Auntie Bell:

Can you give me some really good recipes for home made candy? I mean something simple enough for us to make with some hope of success—There are several in the back of mamma's old cook book, but they are either troublesome to make from having to be strained so many times, or beaten so many minutes, or worked on a marble slab, or drawn from a book—and we can't stop to fuss so long with them, even if we had the slab and the book at our convenience; or perhaps they are so doubtfully expressed, that we don't dare to try them for fear of wasting sugar, and making "messes" for cook to throw out. For instance, they say, take "a handful" of this and "a little" of that and "use your own judgment" about the other, and when you haven't any "judgment" about candy making and never succeeded with anything but the simplest kind of taffy, you don't find these rules very helpful. So I write to ask if you will be so kind as to furnish us, (Carrie and me) with some plain recipes that we can make for the boys. You see Auntie Bell, we have three brothers, and a cousin Jack who boards with us this winter, and goes to school—well, these boys are just at the age, when they need a little "looking after" and mamma says, nobody can do it so well, as Carrie and I. Carrie is my elder sister and nearly sixteen while I am fourteen this spring. Now our boys have never stood around corners, nor belonged to any doubtful club, where girls wouldn't be admitted, nor do they sit around any restaurant, as I have seen boys belonging to nice families do, and you may be sure mother, Carrie and I would be glad to do anything, to make home brighter and more attractive to them, than any other place, so we have sometimes the brightest of fires in the parlor, and the most comfortable chairs drawn up to invite stray boys into them and before they know it we have them interested in some new song, or jolly tune and the evening passes away with music, often followed by a plate of doughnuts or cookies. But more often we gather about the big dining-table and play games—but they get tired of the old ones, and I am so glad you are writing out some new ones for us! Lately we have taken to books, Carrie and Fred are both good readers, and we choose something interesting, but not too deep, so all can enjoy it, from little Walter up to papa. We have read that sweet little story "The Birds Christmas Carol" and "Captain January" and now we are going to have "Timothy's quest" for our next reading. I do love Kate Douglas Wiggin's books, they make you laugh and cry in a breath; but then I am writing a long letter and I didn't mean to take up so much of your time, but only to ask for the recipes that we might make some candy to treat the boys, while we sit over the fire and chat, or to keep the restless ones quiet, while we read; and now good bye, with kindest regards, from your friend

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Now this is a bit of work that just exactly suits me; to help these or any other girls to make home pleasant for their brothers by every little pleasure or comfort that love can devise, is just what I am glad to do. So Ethel and Carrie shall have their candy recipes, and we will all wish them the best of luck, and the happiest of evenings—I am sure they must be nice girls to know, and hope we shall hear from them again; no doubt we have in our own city many such sisters, who desire to be bright helpful companions to their brothers and to increase their love of home, as a safeguard against the temptations awaiting our boys outside. To such I recommend other attractions the sweet bait our friend Ethel asks for, and will write the directions as plainly and simply as possible and hope some of you will kindly let me know how you succeed. We will begin with our own:

Chocolate Creams.

Two cups of granulated sugar, one half cup of water, one half cake of Baker's chocolate. Boil the sugar and water hard for four minutes. Pour into a bowl and beat until stiff enough to mould. Melt the chocolate over the tea-kettle (do not cook it). Flavor with vanilla and sweeten to taste. Roll the moulded creams in the melted chocolate.

These are good and any boy or girl who does not enjoy them, must have had la grippe very badly and lost the sense of taste! Now let us try some fine

Not Caramels.

Two cups molasses, two cups brown sugar, one cup milk, one tablespoonful glycerine. One cup of grated chocolate, one piece of butter the size of a large egg, one cup of chopped nuts, (walnuts are preferred). Boil rapidly for thirty minutes, the first four of these ingredients. Add the chocolate and butter, and boil for twenty minutes longer. Test by dropping a little into very cold water it must be firm but not hard. When done add the nuts and pour into a buttered tin. When nearly cold, mark into squares with a knife well buttered.

And now we will try a dish of my favourite

French Nougat.

Two cups of powdered sugar, two tablespoonfuls of hot water, one half pound of almonds, the white of one egg. Place the sugar and the water on the fire, where the sugar will melt but not boil. As soon as the sugar is melted, add the egg beaten stiff. Remove from the fire and stir in the nuts which have been blanched and cut into fine strips. Pour into a pan lined with paraffine paper, and spread an inch thick.

To blanch almonds let them stand in boiling water a few minutes; the skins can then be easily rubbed off; and if the nuts are prepared beforehand, you see it would not take long to make up this lovely sweetmeat. A little experience will enable you to turn out really delicious candy at a moderate cost, and I can tell you a dainty pink and white tissue paper box or sacket, filled with creams and caramels of your own manufacture make a pretty and toothsome birthday gift for your young friend; while a number of them on the Confectionery table at a fair or sale where you may be asked to contribute, make a good show, and are always saleable I find. At another time, I shall be happy to give you three more recipes—but for this week must bid you all good-bye.

AUNT BELL.

The Mouse-Trap.

Prepared for an emergency is the phrase that seems to fit an elderly woman who, says the Washington Post, was going to the Virginia mountains, and had the drawing room of a sleeping-car. The porter was helping her to stow away her belongings. "Put that mouse trap under the berth," she commanded, and her voice had the ring of one accustomed to command.

"You 'specting to catch anything?" grinned the porter.

"Expecting!" she snapped. "I've already caught two mice in sleeping-cars in the last eight years. I don't propose to be mutilated by the creatures while I sleep. Put that trap where I tell you and mind your own business!"

Think of a defenceless woman daring enough to say "mind your own business" to a sleeping-car porter, and yet afraid of a mouse!

Women Fare Better.

A fact noticed and mentioned by Professor Koch during his studies in Africa and India is that women stand malarial climates far better than men. During the appalling mortality on the Gold Coast within the past four years there was hardly a death among the women living out there, while every kind of man was dying—men new to the tropics, men born in them, men who had been accustomed to them for years, even men who had battled with the ravages of West Africa for upward of ten years. The attempt to explain this anomaly by the fact that men are, as a rule, more exposed to the hot sun of day and the miasma of night, failed in the presence of the fact that the death rate was highest among

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officials, merchants, and employees who work in offices, banks, and warehouses, where no exposure to weather is involved and where all medical attendance, food, and all conditions of living are the best obtainable in that country. The fact that black water fever, so deadly to male Europeans, hardly ever attacked women, and that no physician has yet offered any reasonably conclusive explanation of such discrimination, illustrates how far medical science is yet from a full understanding of malarial disease.

UP-TO-DATE FASHIONS.

Fashion, as it appears on the street in this fitful interval between seasons, does not reveal very much that is new in dress; but all doubts as to the coming modes are being promptly settled by the spring openings of imported novelties which provide the necessary motifs for the host of new gowns already ordered for summer wear.

To be up to date is the ambition of every woman who appreciates the advantages of style in dress, and certainly there is no very noticeable amount of indifference on the subject to be charged up against womankind of the present day. The amount of time, thought and nervous energy spent in pursuit of things to wear is good proof that this generation of the fair sex is not insensible to the charms of pretty clothes.

Elaboration, as represented by endless labor and complex modes of trimming, is surely the keynote of fashion this season and bids fair to be carried to an extreme of fussiness that will not be desirable. It is said that elaboration, whether in dress or a learned essay, is always an evidence of immature mind; so it we would be wise in the matter of dress we must cultivate simplicity. Certainly nothing can be added to the elaborate studies in gowns brought out for our approval—they are so fully decorated—but with a fair amount of genius for elimination a model is easily suggested.

Trimmed skirts were the fashion last summer, but they have painted the lily for this season, and the word trimmed hardly describes their condition in any of the dressy, transparent materials. The first step toward the extreme of fashion in skirts is to cut them with no seam in the back, and fit them so closely around the hips down to the knee that you will find it more comfortable to stand than sit down. This may be an exaggeration of the style, but it is possible for those who are given over to the extremes in every fashion. If you are blessed with a figure divinely tall and slender, array yourself in a redingote of fine faced cloth, as so many of the Parisian women do, and in a lace redingote or tunic for dressy occasions. Lace exemplifies this pet scheme of fashion better than any other material, as it can be cut all in one and joined so that it seems to be woven to the figure. Lace redingotes have a circular flounce of lace sewn on, while the tunics are shorter and display a skirt of crepe de chine or silk below. Velvet rosettes are the only finish required for either of these lace garments.

Despite all the extravagant trimmings, beautiful colors, and novel material which go to make up the wonderful scheme of fashion, it is the outline of your costume that is the vital thing after all, if you would

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present a really smart appearance. Nothing in the decoration is permitted to break this artistic line anywhere between the top of the collar and band and the hem of the skirt. If your figure is cast in the mould which fashion requires, you have good reason to count your blessings and extend your sympathy to the besieged dressmaker, who is continually expected to preform miracles with human form. One advantage of the elaboration of trimming is that it can be used as a means of disguising defects, if it is artistically considered, and then, too, the length and cut of the tunic are of great importance in the varying effects on the figure. Some sort of a tunic seems to be a necessity of fashion, so many of the gowns are made in this way. An overdress or the effect of one, is a feature of all the dressy gowns, as it was twenty years ago, when the same trained skirts were worn.

Princess gowns, which are very much worn, preserve the fashionable outline better than any other, possibly, for they are marvels of perfection in fit, but the effect of an overdress is usually given to the skirt. Tunics with deep peplum points are one variety, and for trimming these when the material is cloth or cashmere wide bands of the same covered with rows of stitching are used. Stitched bands of silk or satin are also employed, and these trim the underskirt in deep points or scallops following the outline of the overdress. A group of tucks is also used for a finish around the polonaise, which usually opens in front very narrowly to show the undershirt which may be of finely checked silk with narrow ruff is falling below the long underskirt. This idea of a skirt in contrast, both in material and color, with the overdress is an old fashion revived, and a very useful one, too, in making over old gowns. The soft, fine materials lend a new charm to the old fashions which makes them far prettier than ever before. The plain skirt still obtains, however, among the tailor gowns; yet it hardly can be termed plain either, as it is decorated with rows upon rows of machine stitching, both in straight lines and various scroll designs. White cloth or white satin bands, covered with rows of black braid, are another form of trimming; the plain cloth skirt and the color of your gown have nothing to do with the case.

Among the various odd effects produced on the modern bodice is the use of white pique with a coarse, heavy cord. This appears on the new toulards, the daintiest nun's veilings, and crepes de chine in a chemisette, a wide collar, or an inner or second vest peeping out on either side of the front over a lace or embroidered satin vest and cut in scallops on the edge, finished with a full ruche of white chiffon. Scallops, by the way, are seen everywhere and anywhere that an edge is presented which can be cut in scallops. It is a favorite mode of finishing the overdresses and the bottom of short jackets, and some of the ruffs are cut in scallops. You may have them deep or shallow, as you fancy, and trim them round with ruchings, insertion, or knife plaitings. Another feature of decoration is lacing with fine silk cord over a contrasting color. Narrow openings up and down the bodice are laced across with cord either matching the gown in color or in some paler shade of the same color. One pretty model in pale gray nun's veiling has a cream lace yoke laced to the lower portion of the bodice with pink silk, and over a deeper shade of pink silk. The opening forms the straight yoke into a point in front, and the effect is very pretty. Lacing trim the sleeves very effectively, too, and some of the overdresses have lacing around the hips.

Volumes have been written about tucks, but they are so conspicuously in the foreground of dress trimmings that any novelty in their use is a surprise. A group of seven fine tucks around the overdress of a nun's veiling gown set in about five inches below the waist line is certainly unusual, and again we find a cluster of tucks about nine inches long in the center of the back of an overdress. These are set in up and down, and are useful in disposing of the superfluous fulness just at that point. Tucks below the waist around the front and sides of an overdress in red foulard are shown in the first illustration, and the special feature is that they do not extend across the back, which is quite plain and seamless. The overdress is trimmed with guipure lace, which also trims the underskirt. The yoke is of soft white silk, tucked in checks in groups of three. Lace like embroidered muslin borders this, and guipure insertion encircles the bodice and sleeves. This mode of trimming is quite as popular as it was a year ago. The white silk lining shows through these bands but if a transparent effect is desired in the sleeves the lining is cut away and white chiffon used under the lace. A necktie of white silk hemmed with red silk, and a belt of foulard with white tucks complete this gown.

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Many of the new French gowns have either a complete bolero of lace, or a bolero front, which assures the popularity of this especial style for still another season. Another style bodice becoming to the young woman with a pretty neck is cut out in a short V in front and finished with the regulation shaped sailor collar of the material like the gown, finished with a hem set in with an open work stitch of silk or with lace applique.

A gown of pale fawn voile spotted with white, is trimmed with narrow lace applique insertion in exactly the same shade of fawn as the gown. Vandykes of narrow silken fringe trim the underskirt, pale cornflower blue chiffon, tucked, forms the vest, and here we have a bolero front of fringe and lace. The belt is of black velvet fastened with a bow and a steel buckle set with cabochons. Bands of black and white striped silk edged with folds of the material trim a pale blue canvas gown. The yoke is of hand embroidered in colors on white satin. The new overdress cut in peplum points is shown in an other model carried out in biscuit colored and white checked voile. Ficelle lace is the trimming, cut out underneath to show the white underskirt through its meshes. Biscuit colored chiffon, elaborately tucked and gathered, forms the upper portion of the bodice, and narrow straps of violet mirror velvet are the finish, with a velvet belt and tie. A stylish gown of tan nun's veiling in the palest tint shows a decoration of a wide cream lace insertion and a lace yoke, and the upper part of the sleeves are of lace. A gown of pale gray foulard patterned in blue is trimmed with guipure applique and fine white silk braid. The belt and collar are of black velvet.

What to Eat

and enjoy it and feel comfortable after it, is the all day, everyday wit of the indigestion patient. Advice—Eat all wholesome things don't worry, take Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets to aid Nature in doing the stomach's work. They're a mild tonic, act gently on the bowels, they prevent and relieve distress. Pleasant and positive. 35 cents.

Consult.

To a marriage notice recently appearing in the paper of a town that serves as the Grenia Green for a large neighbourhood was appended the following:

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