

## Chat of the Boudoir.

If there is one article of dress more than another which requires that the principles of individuality should be promulgated to the fullest extent it is the tea gown, and the summer tea gown in particular. While there is every phase, age and mode of dress open to the originators of this gown a woman must fully understand both the weakness and strength of her physical points if she would attain any kind of success as to her appearance in a tea gown. She may wrestle satisfactorily with every other kind of a gown, yet fail to grace the æsthetic character of her negligee, unless she has a well defined appreciation of her physical defects, and some consideration for its adaptation to her characteristics and habits of living. However negligee gowns are an unlimited source of comfort during the heated term and quite the most fascinating of all of a woman's belongings if they are well chosen. It is a negligee of the most summery description most in demand and if you can possess one which will answer the purpose of a home dinner gown and a costume in which it is suitable to receive your friends you have a treasure. One such gown is shown in the illustration made of white net inset with lace over a white taffeta and chiffon foundation dress. A pretty little bolero of lace, a scarf of black or colored chiffon and a jewelled belt complete a very elegant but useful gown. A more simple dress of chiffon over white taffeta shows a lace yoke, accordion plaited front and ruffle and a short flowing sleeve of the plaited chiffon. The Empire style is displayed in another gown of soft blue silk trimmed with lace threaded through with white satin ribbon.

Negligees are made entirely of lace in a loose cloak like form, with angel sleeves and plaited fronts of chiffon. The chiffon is the only lining and the fullness confined in a low-necked Empire bodice of pink velvet, showing through the lace, has a very charming effect, the velvet fastening the garment at the bust in a pretty rosette. The classic lines of Greek drapery are carried out to some extent in a tea gown of pink crepe, the back partially fitted to the figure, the front draped up at one side and the edges, like the hem, trimmed with lace. The sleeves are of the angel variety falling over an undersleeve of lace. For real comfort in the privacy of your own room a crepe Japanese kimono is the thing. If it is genuine it is embroidered in silver and gold down either side of the front and worn with the wide sash belt and short sash ends of black embroidered crepe. But if you cannot afford this, the American modification of this garment made in cotton crepe is a joy, even though it is not a thing of beauty. In gray or pink a kimono is very striking with a border of black lawn cut out in applique designs outlined with a fine cord the color of the gown.

The tints in cloth gowns seems to be lighter even than they were in the early spring, and now there is an ice color which is indescribable, a delicate green, and the faintest tint of pink, which make charming gowns for cool days.

Cloths in pale colors are used for driving coats, with a tight-fitted basque in the back. The fronts slope off a little from below the bust and large double revers and collar of white silk and lace are the finish above a white silk vest fastened with silver buttons.

Little collarettes of lace and mousseline plaitings, with long scarf ends, are very much worn, and seem to fill the place of the fancy boas. They are simply a yoke with ruffles attached and finished around the neck with plaitings of lace.

### MORE YOUNG TAILORS NEEDED.

One Effect of the Development of the Tailor-Made Woman.

"Women make better lawyers and ministers than tailors," said an authority on the subject. "They might be employed in the lighter details, but never for the fundamental part of the work. That must be



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done by men, and the scarcity of skilled labor is to day, as it has been for several years, a very grave consideration, and it is apt to increase rather than to lessen since there are no young apprentices coming on. The American boy, even the son of the foreign born tailor, is averse to learning the trade. He thinks it womanish to sit sewing on the bench and the increased attention devoted to feminine costumes has seemingly strengthened his aversion. I have myself offered all manner of inducements to bright-witted, active lads to learn the business, but they prefer to become plumbers or bricklayers, printers or engineers, to be anything, in fact, but tailors like their fathers or uncles.

If the boys could be made to see it, there are better chances for a successful career in tailoring than in many other callings. It's one of the few trades in which a man's value increases as he grows older. The skilled carpenter, stonemason, &c., is apt to be set aside when his vigor declines. With middle life he has passed his usefulness, but the old tailor, schooled in every vagary of his art, is even more highly prized than are the young and vigorous workmen. Patience, infinite practice and experience are his tools, and these are the dowry of years. The most prosperous merchant tailors and owners of sumptuous establishments in this country began as workmen on the bench. It requires from two to three years shop apprenticeship to make a creditable workman, and as long to develop into a first class cutter and designer.

In the old countries the apprentice learns by toilsome process, and what he learns he learns thoroughly, but he has none of the young American's quick grasp of ideas and origination of methods. Belgium and Sweden send out the best men. In Germany also the standard is high, and good men acquire the trade. Europe's best journeymen tailors of all nations, come to the United States, attracted by the \$4 and \$5 a day wages, but the rank and file of the unskilled workmen came also, and there is no means of separating the fit from the unfit except by actual trial, and often at the cost of a ruined garment.

The merchant tailors' exchanges in all the large cities have long been concerned as to this shortage of skilled labor. They have fostered schools of tailoring and offered free tuition and prizes for the best made coat, trousers or waistcoat executed by an apprentice. In nearly every case their efforts have been futile. A school that could accommodate fifty pupils and was officered by enthusiastic patrons, who secured the most competent teachers, would have only a dozen or more pupils. The New York Tailors' Exchange even established a gymnasium, where the tailors' apprentices could have an offset to their sedentary work, but enthusiasm was not to be created. Boys preferred clerking at \$6.00 and \$7.00 a week with no chance of promotion rather than a trade that demanded close attention, no matter what future prizes were offered. Consequently there is a mere handful of apprentices learning the trade, and at each recurring busy season the headquarters for cutting systems and tailors' devices were besieged for skilled cutters, designers and sewers to fill positions in tailors' establishments in various towns and cities. There are not enough first-rank workmen to go round. The half-skilled labor is used in default of better, and their blunders evoke anathemas in the back shops, and much fault-finding and irritation before the board.

### FOR CAMPING OUT.

Tents, Sleeping Bags and Many Other Things Provided for This Purpose.

Camping out things have of course long been articles of sale by the dealers in sportsmen's goods, but there never was a time before when they were offered in such variety, and of such perfect adaptability to their use, as now. Of tents there is a great variety, of all kinds and styles and sizes, for from two men up; and if these tents are not in stock the dealer makes any of them to order within twenty-four hours. There are camp stoves and camp ovens and various camp cooking utensils. Among the new things in this line are the cooking kits of aluminum, which are wonders of lightness and compactness; such kits are made of various sizes, for from two persons upward.

An aluminum cooking kit and camp out-

fit for six persons occupies when packed for transportation a space little, if any, greater than that taken up by any ordinary water bucket. Such a kit contains four pails, nesting snugly together and each provided with a cover and a bail. There are in that kit knives and forks and spoons and cups and plates and coffee pot and frying pans—everything that could be needed for the convenience and comfort of the campers, and everything made so that it will go inside the innermost of the nest of pails. The frying pans are ingeniously contrived to be used with a pole handle, which is cut at the camp and inserted in the handle of the frying pan, so that the cook doesn't have to bend down over the fire, in the smoke, but can, with his long handled-frying pan, stand up straight and away from the heat and manipulate the pan in comfort.

The hunter or fisherman who camps out can of course build a bed for himself with crocheted sticks and poles, or he can make a bed of boughs, upon which to spread his blankets, or he can buy a sleeping outfit that can be made ready for use in much less time than he could build a bed from nature's materials, and that would at the same time give him in the midst of nature, absolute luxury, besides being, when not in use, light and portable to a high degree.

Folding camp beds have long been made but they are made nowadays lighter and to do up in complete form than ever. One can buy a camp bed very comfortable to sleep on, that will do up for transportation into a light bundle three feet long by six inches square. If he wants something more comfortable still he can buy an air mattress, which can be quickly inflated, and which, deflated, makes a roll thirty inches in length by five inches in diameter. Sleeping bags, which, not many years ago were articles of limited sale, and which when used, were more likely to be supplied by the guides, are nowadays made in variety and sold in considerable numbers. They are lined with furs of various kinds, or with lamb's wool, or blankets, heavy or light, sleeping bags being made for use in any climate. Sleeping bags may be costly, or inexpensive, according to the materials of which they are made.

There are camp chairs of various kinds, old and new, and tables likewise, all highly portable, a table for four people, for example being made to fold into a bundle three feet long and four inches thick one way by six the other.

A modern sort of contraption is a pocket axe, a useful little implement, that can be dropped in a pocket or in one's booting. The pocket axe has a pivoted guard that can be closed down over its edge, as the handle of a razor is closed over its edge; this for the protection of the carrier, and to protect the edge itself, when the axe it used the guard is thrown back on its pivot, to shut into the handle, out of the way, flush with the handle's surface.

There are compasses, of course, the modern camp compass being put into a nickel case like a watch case, most convenient to carry and use, there are waterproof match boxes and so on. There is in fact to be found in these days for camping out, everything that could be required, for convenience, for comfort, or for luxury, and all these up to date in economy of place and weight.

The camper-out can also get in the sporting goods establishment food in considerable variety, this being like the sportsman camp equipage food put up in the compactest possible form. He can buy in a cylindrical paper box of the size of a quart measure and very light to carry, in the form of a powder, the yolks of six dozen eggs, in a form somewhat like that of a dynamite cartridge, six inches in length by an inch or an inch and a half in diameter can be bought, in this highly condensed form, peas sufficient to make two or three gallons of pea soup. Potatoes and other vegetables can be bought condensed. In a box not much larger than that of a penny box of matches are sold a dozen capsules of beef extract, so condensed that one of them will make a quart of bouillon. There are soups and other foods, highly concentrated, put up in little blocks the size of yeast cakes, that when prepared will yield a meal, so that it is quite possible for the man who is going camping out to carry along, in very little space, food as well if he so desires for supplies until he begins to get his own, or to guard against any emergency or for eking out other supplies.

### WHEN MADAME WAS AWAY.

A Woman Overhears the Plaints of a Man Whose Wife was in the Country.

Two men sat behind the vines of a secluded veranda to smoke their after-dinner cigars the other evening. As they smoked they grew confidential and told each other some secrets that were burdensome to their comfort. A woman sat within the house, near a window that

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opened on the veranda. It was a warm night and the window was open. But the woman was supposed to be reading and the men forgot her existence. Snatches of the conversation floated in to her, and as the theme was particularly interesting to femininity the woman listened. It couldn't be wrong, she argued, because one man was her husband and the other was her dearest friend's husband. Their talk amused and interested her so much she told it to a friend and that person repeated it in a newspaper office and so it was a secret no longer.

The theme of the men's conversation is not an unusual one in Buffalo this month. Dozens of other men could take part in it if they chose. The dearest friend's husband was trying to keep house while his wife and the children were in the country for a few weeks.

"You know, Clifford, I can make a cup of coffee and broil a steak as well as the next person, but when it comes to washing dishes I flunk, that's all. How the women keep the dishes in shape is more than I know. Then it beats all how untidy the bedroom gets. I can't understand it, for I never had any difficulty in keeping my shoes, ties, collars and those kind of things in their place before. I suppose I forget to put them away now that I have the breakfast to cook."

The woman listening, laughed, for she knew all about certain bags and boxes which her dearest friend had in which she stowed away her husband's soiled linen and handkerchiefs and kept his neckties straight. She remembered, too, her friend telling her she had left everything in apple order for Herbert. "He'll get along nicely," the little woman had said, "for the flat is in perfect order, there isn't a soiled article anywhere and I've left a supply of cooked things and have told the milkman and baker to call every morning in time for breakfast."

"It wasn't so bad until I made my first breakfast," the voice on the veranda went on. "that was not a success, for after I had made the coffee and put on the eggs I sat down to read the paper a minute. What a minute when you want to find out about the situation in China and if the Democrats have agreed on their platform! But it was long enough for the coffee to boil all over the range and the eggs to get as hard as bricks. What coffee was left tasted queer and I hadn't time to wash the dishes. I was sure I had used only one plate and a cup and saucer, but there was enough for half a dozen persons. After I tidied up the kitchen I thought I would look over the evening paper, when I remembered I hadn't made my bed yet. I could have sworn burglars had been in the room, for there were more shoes and neckties and things lying around than I could wear in a week. I couldn't begin to put them away! Marion has one of those long narrow boxes for my neckties and I tried to straighten the

things out and put them away as I usually keep them, but it took too long."

Again the woman on the other side of the window laughed softly, for she remembered her friend telling how Herbert always tried every pair of shoes he owned before he could decide which ones to wear and how his necktie box had to be tidied every morning as regularly as the bed was made.

"It is two weeks now since Marion went away," the man continued "and though I have written her that everything is all right and that I enjoy housekeeping. I shall be mighty glad to see her back. Every dish in the house was used nearly a week ago and I have given up trying to wash more than a plate and cup I need for breakfast. After this I am going downtown for breakfast and I am going to send for the washerwoman to come and clean up the house. I told Marion it wasn't necessary to have anyone come in, that I could keep things going for a month all right. Our flat is so small there never seemed much to do, but either I am too busy at the office or I haven't felt so well as usual, for this housekeeping beats me."

"You'll be glad when it is time for your wife to come home, eh?" said the friend, as he knocked the ashes off the end of his cigar, and the woman who listened made up her mind she would write her friend that very night and tell her how glad Herbert would be to see her and the children.

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### Hit in the Face.

In one of Mr. Chauncey M. Depew's stories, he tells of meeting a man as funny as himself.

"One day," said Mr. Depew, "I met a soldier who had been wounded in the face. He was a Union man, and I asked him in which battle he had been injured."

"In the last Battle of Bull Run, sir," he replied.

"But how could you get hit in the face at Bull Run?" I asked.

"Well, sir," said the man, half apologetically, "after I had run a mile or two I got careless and looked back."

### Another Facial Insult.

Toban—"An' so thim Filipinos yez saw wor sharrt av stature, wid high chake-bones, wor they? Phawt homely divils!"

Dolan—"Yis, Toban, they wor th' most moonkey-faced people Oi iver addressed—that is, present company excepted, av course." (And then they clinched.)

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