

## Chat of the Boudoir.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

To bathe or not to bathe is the question of the hour; but there seems to be no negative side to the question when you attempt to estimate the number of bathers at the seashore in midsummer. At any rate a summer girl without a bathing suit is like a bird with its wings clipped in these times. If a girl is very swell she has a bathing suit of shiny black satin made with a skirt fitting the hips and flaring full below. The bodice gathered into the belt is severely simple with a wide collar of Agra linen in a pale, pretty green, or a crimson red. The finish at the hem is stitching in many rows and the sleeves are a simple puff. A boned girdle rather improves the figure. Black silk stockings, and a kerchief, which has the green or red predominating in the plaid for the head, are the accessories.

Black mohair is very much liked for the bathing dress, and very generally used yet not nearly so becoming as the glossy satin. The next best thing is a gray bathing suit trimmed with a deep wide band of white around the skirt, and a white collar. The prescribed length of the skirt is a little below the knees, just covering the trousers, and while the swell suit is simple it is as carefully fitted and perfectly made as any gown in the summer outfit.

As for the hats there are straw helmets and medium sized pokes with strings of cloth or silk and a scarf around the crown, besides the jaunty mob caps of wash materials.

Some of the flannel bathing suits are made very prettily with tucked skirts and bodices, the tucks running in vertical lines from the shoulders to within four inches of the hem of the skirt. Rosettes of silk in a bathing suit may seem a little incongruous, but they are in evidence and very effectively, too, if they are bright red, one at the left side of the decollete neck, and another fastening the red silk belt which has the fashionable dip in front.

Brier stitching in white is a very pretty trimming, using one or two rows around the hem; belt and neck finished with a narrow bertha collar. Not to be outdone by the more pretentious costumes some of the bathing suits have a guimpe and undersleeve of fine white batiste tucked and trimmed with lace.

It may be true that bathing cloaks are not so much used in this country as they are on the other side of the water, but they are here all the same, in varying degrees of elegance, from bright hued silks to simple flannel. It is a long loose cloak which completely envelopes the figure, and boasts a deep collar which is trimmed with stitched bands.

Something novel in wraps is a yachting cloak in the Spanish shape, made of white linen with a deep turned down collar and edged all around with one row of inch wide black velvet ribbon.

Yachting coats in the redingote shape are also made of white linen. They are double breasted, and fastened with large pearl or linen covered buttons spotted with polka dots in colored silk, and the revers and collar are covered with Irish lace, with an embroidered band of the linen matching the buttons around the edge.

All white gowns and pure white gowns trimmed elaborately with black lace are very much in evidence in the summer pageant of fashionable dress.

Pink in all the prettiest tints is unmistakably popular this season, and very chic combinations are made by the use of violet and pink.

Fashions in stockings show all the bright colors this season, and they are variously embroidered in contrasting tints on black and white. For evening wear there are dainty silk and lace thread stockings with lace like effects woven in around the ankle, and others with real lace insertions set in and embroidered around the edges.

One of the daintiest of summer parasols

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is of chiffon on point d'esprit set in tucks all over the plain surface, and finished with a frill around the edge.

Very small Empire fans are all the vogue again, and they must be either white encrusted with gold or some very bright color.

Black satin poppies are popular in millinery.

Colored zephyr petticoats trimmed with valenciennes lace and insertion are worn with wash dresses.

### THE WOMEN OF CHINA.

Remarkable Instances of Their Devotion to Husbands or Relations.

Woman's influence in China is greater than is commonly supposed. Records of the Flowery Kingdom are full of examples of women famous for their learning, heroism and high principle. Sometimes women achieve absolute power over the household for there is a popular saying, 'She eats rice with her husband,' which is used to describe the rule of the female tyrant. The most astonishing instance of feminine power, today is, of course, the career of the Empress Dowager. As an instance of the Empress Dowager's power, it may be recalled that she deposed her strongest viceroy, Prince Kung, in 1885, by a mere decree in the Pekin Gazette because 'he overrated his importance.'

In common with all other nations, the woman of China represent the most fervent religious element. They are said to support enthusiastically the Boxer's movement and to be fighting with passion to help rid the country of the missionaries. That the women of China do not lack courage is proved by the fact that they sometimes seek suicide as relief from unhappy marriages and uncongenial husbands would frequently be murdered were it not for special punishments, 'ignominious and slow,' devised for all women who attempt homicide. The mere existence of this law provides the necessity for it. Again, not long ago fifteen young girls of Canton threw themselves into the river to escape from marrying the husbands chosen for them.

Two other recent examples prove the devotion of the Chinese women of high degree. A daughter of the Chinese Minister to London, Kwo-Sung-Taon, was married at the age of 17. When her husband died she tried to commit suicide out of grief, and would eat nothing but gold leaf, seeking thereby to induce death. It failed to poison her, and she then starved to death. Her sister in law, Mrs. Kwo, a sister of the Marquis Tseng, tried also to follow her husband to the land of spirits, but failing in her attempt at suicide she finally took compassion on her children, agreed to live and managed her father-in-law's property while he was in London. Li Hung Chang penned a memorial to the Dragon Throne, requesting that these two women should receive a sign of imperial approval.

Notwithstanding the degraded condition of women of the lower classes, the feminine ideal is high in China, and the annals of the past show a long series of virtuous and heroic women, who have made an indelible impression upon the national mind. The mother of the great sage, Confucius, is held as a model. The next philosopher of importance, Mencius, was also indebted to his mother for the formation of his character and mind, as well as his philosophy.

Woman's lot in China is, however, not an enviable one. She is not received into the world with joy, and gets very little education. At twelve she is banished from all companionship to become 'the young girl who sits in the house,' until her marriage, when she weds some one she has never seen. Then she must obey her husband and her mother-in-law; she may not come into contact with men or the outside world; and, as a rule, she cannot read. She may, however, receive ladies and return their calls. The patriarchal system is so universal that the father is a despotic ruler over his family, and a married woman becomes so entirely a part of her husband's family that she has to yield her obedience to her husband's parents, who frequently treat her more as a slave than a daughter-in-law. The doctrine in-

calculated in the Chinese classics is that a woman has three stages of obedience: First, to her father; second, to her husband, and third, if her husband dies, to her son when he reaches manhood. The old proverb goes: 'Men wish their boys to be like wolves, and fear lest they should be timid; their girls they wish to be like mice, and fear lest they should have the boldness of the tiger.' The laws established 2,500 years ago are in favor to-day, and among them no rules are stricter than those for keeping the women in bondage.

Chinese books of instruction for girls consist chiefly of exhortations to discharge their duties as daughters, wives, mothers and daughters-in-law. The 'Girls' Four Books,' to which two famous Emperors wrote prefaces, describe how the female mind and character must be trained. Modesty, gentleness, self-sacrifice, wisdom respect for elders and a virtuous disposition must be a woman's equipment in life. There is no pressing need for intellectual education. However, about one hundred in every ten thousand women read, and that means read with understanding the great books of philosophy and literature, the works of China's sages and poets. Such cases are found among the aristocratic classes, and men of letters frequently teach their wives and daughters not only the art of reading, but that of writing, and go so far as to publish their literary effusions.

### DONE BY A GIRL SWIMMER.

Swam for Forty-One Minutes Holding an Open Umbrella Over Her.

The remarkable feat of swimming for forty one minutes and during all that time using one hand to hold an open umbrella over her head, with a stiff wind blowing, was accomplished yesterday morning by Miss Lydia Winterhalter of 695 Holton street, Milwaukee. To win a wager and show an instructor at Rohn's swimming school that she was a better judge of her own endurance than he, she undertook to remain in the water under these difficulties for half an hour and succeeded in over-reaching the time limit by eleven minutes.

The undertaking would have been a formidable one for any practised swimmer, for the burden of supporting an umbrella, light though it may be, is considerable for that length of time without a shift from hand to hand, while it also means that one arm is useless as far as assisting in the operation of swimming is concerned, in the presence of a strong breeze, and it is seen the self-imposed task was one from which almost any one would shrink. For a young woman, therefore, to accomplish it with its tax on the strength and endurance, is a matter of special note, and in consequence Miss Winterhalter has found herself in the possession of a newly acquired reputation as a swimmer deserving of respectful consideration by the best of the many persons of that portion of the city who are accomplished in the aquatic line. The young woman, who is 19 years of age, has been fond of the water ever since she was a child and she has always been an adept at the sport, but it was not until her achievement of yesterday that she had an opportunity to demonstrate what she could actually do.

Miss Winterhalter was at the swimming school yesterday forenoon with several companions one of whom was attempting to swim about with an umbrella in her hand, when a discussion arose as to the difficulty of the feat, Miss Winterhalter expressing the opinion that it was not especially hard and that she could do it for half an hour if need be. The boast was not made with any intention of putting it into practice, but as one of the swimming instructors which took part in the discussion, insisted that the young woman could not possibly do as she proposed, Miss Winterhalter's assurance asserted itself and she inquired how much he was willing to wager on his opinion. A \$1 bet was the outcome and the other swimmers at the place gathered about to watch the experiment.

Miss Winterhalter was as good as her word. She swam into the deep with the umbrella in her right hand, and set about to earn that dollar bill. The conditions were that she could hold the umbrella in the same hand without changing, though she could use any method of swimming that she desired. The young woman swam about a while on her side and then on her back, and then resting by treading water but during it all the umbrella continued its upright position above her head, and never gave the slightest indication of drooping, as the minutes passed by. The swimmer laughed and conversed with those watching the feat, and gave no sign of exhaustion, and when finally the half hour was pronounced up by the timekeepers and

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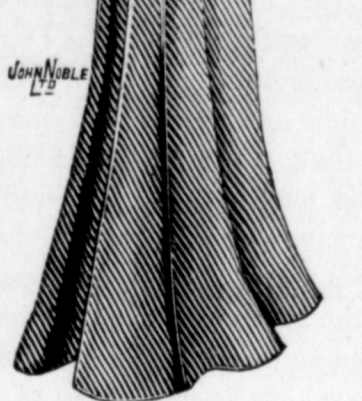
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Model 200.

the wager was won, she decided to stay a little while longer. Finally, when forty one minutes had elapsed she swam ashore apparently as fresh as when she had stepped into the water, nearly three quarters of an hour before.

Miss Winterhalter refused to accept her well earned money, regarding her gain in local fame as quite sufficient to pay for her accomplishment.

### HOW WOMEN WORK HARD.

Immense Amount of Energy Expended in Holding up the Trailing Skirts.

In one afternoon's shopping the women of Greater New York expend sufficient energy to propel the combined navies of the world!

The Girl in the Mortar Board said this and then looked about her for the effect.

'Oh, oh,' groaned the two organdie girls falling limply against each other. But the Girl in the Ladysmith Hat said scornfully: 'It's that mortar board. She can't help doing sums when she's got it on.'

'They do it,' continued the girl with the headpiece, ignoring interruptions and beginning to figure, 'by means of the trailing dress skirt. In Greater New York there are according to the last estimate, 3,000,000 people, or 600,000 families. On the basis of two adult females to each family there are 1,200,000 women most of whom are addicted to the long skirt habit—at least 1,000,000 of them. The average length of time consumed by a woman in a day's shopping is about five hours. Her dress skirt must be held up continuously while in the street and stores. The weight of an ordinary street skirt as held by the hand is from two to five pounds, but taking the minimum weight of two pounds which each woman carries in her hand continuously during the five hours, she expends a lifting force of two pounds every instant, 120 pounds a minute, 7,200 pounds an hour, and 36,000 pounds during the five hours. The 1,000,000 long skirted women of New York would, on the same basis, exert a lifting power of 36,000,000,000 pounds during the day's shopping tour, which is equal to 1,090,909 horse power. The average indicated horse power of a first-class battleship in the United States Navy is 12,000. At this rate the power or energy expended by the women of New York in a single day in carrying their dress trains would propel 1,090 battleships.'

And the Girl in the Mortar Board looked up triumphantly from her figures. The others looked interested and the mortar board girl began at her figures again.

'It takes only 1,022 horse power' she went on, 'to move a train of 60 loaded freight cars twenty-five miles an hour. With the equivalent of 1,090,909 horse power expended by the women they could move 1,067 such trains. Applied to the ordinary tasks of a household, such as sweeping, washing dishes, attending babies &c., this enormous force now wasted

would solve the household problem in a trifle and leave much to spare. It would sweep 1,800,000,000 rooms, allowing 20 pounds of energy to a room. It would wash 36,000,000,000 dishes, giving a pound to each dish. And it would carry 2,400,000,000 babies, each weighing 15 pounds.

'By investigating, it appears that the vast majority of New York women feel themselves unable to attend to their simple household affairs because they are not strong enough. In the matter of dress skirts they are feminine Herculeses.'

Then the Mortar Board Girl threw down her pencil.

'Dear me, I didn't know we were working at it so hard. We'll never wear the horrid things again,' declared the Organdie Girl.

'Never mind,' They are going out this season, anyhow,' murmured the Ladysmith Girl.

### HEARTFELT PRAYER.

Mr. Baldwin of Georgia Unnecessarily Devout.

An old man in Georgia named Jack Baldwin, having lost his hat in an old dry well one day, hitched a rope to a stump and let himself down. A wicked wag named Neal came along just then, and, quietly detaching a bell from Baldwin's old blind horse approached the well, bell in hand, and began to ting-a-ling, says the Atlanta Journal.

Jack thought the old horse was coming, and said: 'Hang the old blind horse; he's coming this way, sure, and he ain't got no more sense than to fall in on me—whoa, Ball!'

The sound came closer. 'Great Jerusalem! The old blind fool will be right on top of me in a minute—whoa Ball—whoa, Ball.'

Neal kicked a little dirt on Jack's head and Jack began to pray:

'Oh, Lord, have mercy on—whoa, Ball—a poor sinner; I'm gone now—whoa, Ball—Our Father, who art in—whoa, Ball—hallowed be thy—gee, Ball! gee! what'll I do?—name. Now I lay me down to sleep—gee, Ball! (Just then in fell more dirt.) Oh, Lord, if you ever intend to do anything for me—back, Ball! whoa—thy kingdom come—gee, Ball! Oh, Lord, you know I was baptized in Smith's milldam—whoa, Ball! ho! up! murder! whoa!'

Neal could hold in no longer, and shouted a laugh, which might have been heard two miles, which was about as far as Jack chased him when he got out.

### Falling Off in Attention.

'Harry, you must try to pay something on Dr. Pitzer's bill.'

'Why, has he said anything about it?'

'No, but when I go there now he doesn't sympathize with me at all.'

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