

Woman and Her Work.

The exciting semi-annual season of bargain sales has come once more, bringing a merry harvest time for the women who are shopping, and, more than all, the chance to take all they can get and give as little as possible in return. The mysterious and sometimes misleading placard, "Great Reductions," conspicuously pasted in the shops has some magic charm which never fails, and women hover round it like bees around a hive; not quite sure, perhaps, where to alight, but ever watchful for the possibilities lurking in a bargain. Gentle manners are completely transformed by these so-called economical opportunities, and she who jostles and pushes regardless of consequences wins the prize package. Ah! but is it a prize, after all? Calm reflection later sometimes says no; odd lengths of this, that and the other are never a desirable purchase without careful thought as to their usefulness.

Bargain sales have a double purpose, however, since in close proximity to the bargains novelties in summer fabrics are temptingly displayed. To be sure, these gauzy things will not be required before next May, but the most charming patterns in organdies, dimities and even foulard silks are brought out and promptly sold in January. It seems early to decide on summer gowns when the temperature is down near zero, but the woman who hesitates in the organdie department she will find something prettier later is sure to be disappointed. The choice designs are soon picked up. New ones are added from time to time, of course, but the first months of the new year are the harvest time for pretty novelties in cotton fabrics for dainty summer gowns, as well as the golden period for reaping bargains.

A cotton fabric which is not all cotton is one of the novelties of the organdie counter. It is called mousseline, and is a dainty soft mixture of silk and cotton, something between an organdie and a batiste in texture. It comes in the prettiest delicate colors, quite plain, with a hairline stripe like a tiny cord, or in white grounds with a striped border and flower designs scattered over it. The special novelty, however, is called Princess Eugenie, and is a fine white lace net, hand painted in the softest colors imaginable, with different flower designs in separate sprays. It is expensive but it comes in double width, so that less is required for your gown, and it is so exquisite in coloring, so soft and clinging in effect that the price is hardly worth consideration compared with the result which can be produced with this charming material.

The new dimities with a satin stripe are prettier than anything of the kind ever shown before, and as they are of yard width and only 50 cents a yard, they are well within the reach of every one. Cheaper muslins in foulard patterns at 12½ and 9 cents a yard are really very attractive too but the finer class of cotton dress goods will be a temptation indeed this season, if the early display is a forerunner of what the next few weeks will reveal to us. Batistes of all kinds and conditions will be worn, and organdies, always charming, are here in more varied designs than ever. One special style is a striking stripe of fine lines shading from light to the darkest tints of one color, and culminating every two inches in a wider satin stripe. There is a variety of colors in these stripes and the effect is very unusual. Other things already displayed for the summer campaign of dress, are the robe dress of dotted swiss and batiste, trimmed with lace and embroidered insertion and edging. The skirt all ready to hang and the material for the bodice, decorated in the same manner, a special novelty in this department is a robe dress of white and colored lawn combined with a wash dotted net in white. The lawn is applied to the net in wavy stripes and various conventional designs and finished on the edge with a fine cord. These dresses are to be made over a silk or lawn lining matching the color of the lawn used in the pattern.

One feature seems to be very evident among the new goods and that is the pale

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soft pastel colors so much seen now among the pretty cloth gowns. These are beautifully illustrated among the new foulard silks which never were prettier in design or coloring. There are Persian designs very soft in the mixture of colors; pale blue, green and pink grounds patterned over with a sprawling bow knot sort of pattern in black and white lines varying in width, and still more charming in all the pastel tints. [Dainty colorings, a glossy finish and a soft clinging texture are the three ruling elements in the make up of the new foulards. The new dark blues patterned with white, always so desirable for serviceable gowns, are of a rather bright shade lighter than the navy tint which has been worn so much, and clusters of white rings with a polka dot in the centre are one of the many pretty patterns.]

With the revival of the décolleté gown in Paris all house costumes are sleeveless with the long glove to take the place of sleeves. But the separate waist should never be sleeveless.

The full dress costumes of this season are ornate in the extreme. It is not enough that they should have lace embroideries, but they are applied with velvet figures, and these are outlined and bedazzled with spangles. It seems to be the fashion for women to get costumes, and bodices at least, which are as much trimmed as possible, and then the wearer adds everything else in the way of ornament which her fancy can devise, and her purse allow, for this ornamentation even when improvised by the wearer does cost a good deal.

Such is the fad of the passing season, but presently some ultra fashionable dame will appear in a costume of severe plainness, and there will straightway be a change of scene.

The separate waist is regarded by the thrifty woman as an economical system of dress, but as the desirable novelty calls for many waists whether of cloth, of cotton or silk the tradesman does not complain of the fashion one bit.

An elegant evening toilette is a gown of white satin, cut in princess, with an applique design of sapphire velvet put on in tunic outline and embroidered round with seed pearls and small crystal beads.

The decoration of the bodice was a continuation of the same idea.

Another princess gown is of tan cloth. The inevitable bolero has around the edge an applique pattern of leaves in brown velvet outlined with a heavy cord. The bodice portion which shows below the sleeveless, the long gloves taking the place of sleeves. Separate waists, however, are never sleeveless.

The rumor that a parting of the hair was going to succeed the pompadour is not yet apparent, but a side part of the pompadour, which brings a heavy loop of hair down on the forehead, is the Parisian novelty, which is being generally adopted, and while on first view it was startling, it is generally becoming worn with the fashionable toque.

Trimmed hats, "ready to wear," as they are called by the trade, are said to be manufactured at half the cost of other hats, hence their cheapness and desirability. With this latest development in the evolution of millinery the once cherished box of ribbons and lace and feathers is more than ever a superfluity in an up-to-date household. In "apartment" life there is no place for keeping such things, but the thrifty woman does not throw them away, but bundles them off for a missionary barrel.

It is a practice that has been in use for a long time, but perhaps it is so old that it may seem new. A woman who heard of it for the first time the other day felt that she had made a discovery. It is the practice of putting stones that are to be kept for any purpose in a bottle with water. This brings out all the pretty colors of the stones and makes rather a pretty ornament, though somewhat reminiscent of the days of wax flowers and cone work. Still there are times when it seems a pleasant thing to do. For instance, one New York youth who roughed it for a time in the west brought back with him a number of moss agates, agates of different kinds, some red stones, and even some copper ore. Nothing is very good of its kind, and the

young man is not a mineralogist and he does not care for that, but as a souvenir the stones interest him. So they are put in an old pickle bottle and make a very pretty color scheme and are more out of the way and at the same time get-at-able whenever he wishes to look at them than they would be kept in the ordinary way.

It is hardly to be believed, but the old fashioned jersey waist is in again. It looks very familiar and the styles have changed so that it comes in in much the same shape that it went out. It is made in a short pointed basque, braided with a standing collar and, of course, the same old plain topped sleeves which it showed when last on view.

Visiting cards are sent only in acknowledgment of cards, as a regret for a tea, days, or a reception, where no answer is required, and it is never good form to write any kind of a message on them.

The domestic science schools are now offering courses for men, which are said to be popular. One of them furnishes instruction in the noble art of carving, and camp cookery is found to hit the mark with boys in preparation for their summer outing.

A dainty fashion is having one's house gowns made entirely in white. Of course this is an expensive fashion, but so dainty and becoming, it is not surprising that a great many women cling to it.

A most attractive white tea gown is made of a soft camel's hair.

It is tight fitting at the back, with princess effect, but the fronts hang loose from the shoulder and are open to show a tight fitting waist and petticoat covered with lace. This gown is trimmed down the front and around the train with bands of white fox fur.

The sleeves are in the shawl shape and open from the armhole, showing a fitted undersleeve of lace. Around the edges of the shawl sleeve are bands of fur, and there is a high collar, edged with the fur and faced with the lace.

Women seemed to be quite as eager to try the fascinating role of supernumerary on the stage as are many young men who are either convinced of their latent dramatic ability or else in for fun.

That plenty of women would even pay for this privilege to "suppe" is a fact that is regularly demonstrated whenever a showman advertises for chorus girls. A call for 50, with even the smallest pay, brings such a company that the manager is embarrassed to undertake the selection, and these women, they say, are always well dressed, and indicate generally by their appearance that the small wage is not the attraction.

They wear handsome gowns and furs, and diamonds, but apparently they think that just the opportunity to appear on the stage is all they need to shine, for so eager are many of them for the chance to "go on" that they whisper sums which they are willing to pay, and the management could readily make up their list without adding to the expense account.

Notes of Fashion.

Flannel shirt waists, never more necessary to comfort and general usefulness than they are at the present moment, are already ousted from their allotted space in the shops to make room for the most sumptuous cotton substitutes. Dainty fine white lawn waists with hemstitched tucks in varying widths, waists striped up and down with lace and embroidered insertions and groups of tucks, waists of embroidered lawn and all sorts of plaid, striped and figured shirtings in colors are to be seen. The one feature which stamps them as new and far prettier than the old shirt waist is the entire absence of any yoke in the back. The only yoke which is stylish at all is the one which is trimmed and applied to the shoulders, forming a little epaulet over the sleeves. The backs are tucked and plaited to correspond with the front, as many of them were made last season, and they were altogether a vast improvement on the yoke back prototypes. There are stiff linen cuffs with rounded corners and detachable collars which can be discarded altogether for the more becoming stocks, and long silk scarfs tied twice around the neck. The most satisfactory things to buy at

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the bargain sales are the silk petticoats and the undergarments, which may not be in the very latest novelties, but which are in good style. The latter are simply soiled from shop wear, a fault not at all detrimental to their real value. Night gowns with the bolero jackets are one of the desirable articles and the corset cover, which is simply a low necked bolero, is one of the choice models. It is cut without any seam in the back and fitted to the figure at the under arm seams and the dart in front. One or two lace insertions may follow the outline of the edge and a narrow edging is the finish. One of the useful garments in the underwear department is the Kimono sash made of wash silk in stripes or checks and finished in the usual way, with a double band of silk all around the edge. Something which is lived very much too, for winter wear is the skirt of flannelette and silk combined. The upper portion of the skirt, with the exception of a yoke of silk four or five inches wide, is made of the flannelette, and the lower portion is a deep flounce of silk ruffled as simply or extravagantly as you like. A novelty which is especially desirable to further the scheme for slender effect is the princess skirt and corset cover in combination. The bodice portion is tucked and trimmed with lace cut very low with a narrow strap over the shoulders, and the lower part of the skirt flares prettily with many ruffles.

The daintiest little stocks are made of all over lace draped over a plain white silk collar and completed with a bow and short ends of the same lace. The edges of the bow and the upper edge of the stock, which by the way, are finished with a narrow bias band of colored satin put on like a binding and stitched. This gives some stiffness to the bow to hold it in place, and makes the stock very attractive amid the myriad of fussy things with which the department stores abound.

A pretty bow for the hair is made of white lace insertion with a scalloped irregular edge, and a little more than an inch wide. It is wired in the centre and arranged in two loops spreading each way from a close knot, and bent in a waved effect.

Something quite new in a tailor gown is made of nut brown cloth. The skirt is belted all around from the front breadth which is plain, and trimmed with curved bands of cloth covered with stitching. The blouse worn with this is of pink and brown plaid silk, and the coat is of the Eton variety with a belt of brown satin covered with stitching.

Nothing can be much daintier than the bows of marabout feathers in pale gray. They are round and as soft as down itself, and are made with a series of feather tails tipped with white, which gives them a very fluffy unusual look. Brown tipped with white are very pretty, and they are indeed a charming novelty.

Silk finished corduroy velvet and cloth are made up into very gorgeous skating costumes.

The latest Parisian fad is a bunch of real violets, or an orchid with maiden-hair fern pinned on the muff. Fur toques with

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a bunch of real flowers, roses or violets fastened in at one side are still another extravagance.

The debutante's dancing frock is made of crepe de chine, silk or Liberty tissue in tints so pale that they are merely a suggestion of color.

Coral jewelry, with difference that it is set round with diamonds, is coming in again.

Mrs. Gould in Society.

The house of Astor and the house of Gould have joined hands. Mrs. Gould has been recognized by the power that is. The Goulds are now in society. Much of this happened at the opera. Mrs. Gould, beautiful in blue and pearls, sat triumphant in the presence of Miss Greta Pomeroy. Miss Pomeroy was in good humor. She laughed and chatted and played her fan; then entered Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish. Presto! Mrs. Fish was in the Astor box. Miss Pomeroy leaned forward, and, with laughing eyes—she is always laughing—engaged the gaze of Mrs. Fish. A signal of smiles played between them, bright and intelligent as the heliograph. Mrs. Fish waved her hand to Mrs. Gould; they waved their hands together; they waved their fans, and the house looked up.

Mrs. Astor looked up. She caught the eye of Mrs. Gould. Intense hush all about the house. The worldling down below waited with bated breath. Mrs. Astor's head leaned from its poise. It bent toward Mrs. Gould. Mrs. Astor smiled genially and bowed with great good nature. Mrs. Gould smiled back; the house caught itself nodding and smiling. A burst of gossip rang around the horse-shoe. It was settled. Mrs. Gould was in society. Right on top the Goulds are slated to appear at one of Mrs. Astor's state banquets.

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"Yes," she coldly rejoined; "but I don't let no man string me no more, I tell you those."

Then she laughed and it was as if she had plucked a dagger into his throbbing heart.

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