

## Chat of the Boudoir.

As usual the prettiest fashions are made for slender women, and one attractive gown for home wear is made with a soft full chiffon blouse which really bags over the belt all around. Over the blouse there is a short bolero hardly more than an empire shoulder sash in width, and the whole effect is charming on a slender girlish figure.

Little tab ends on battlement-shaped pieces seem to be a feature of decoration on some of the new foulards, and one pretty way of using them is to fasten the upper edge of a short bolero on the lace yoke with these little tabs all around, their own width apart. A small button may be the finish at the ends. An idea for the foulard gowns is the blouse of fine batiste on mousseline and the short foulard bolero over this. Tucked flounces, either circular or straight, but rather wide, are well represented on the new foulards made for wear in the south. For slender women, too, are the boleros with a basque at the back, and usually confined at the waist with a belt.

Some very pretty house gowns which may be usefully added to the summer outfit later on are made of taffeta silk with a soft full lace bodice and deep undersleeves. A bolero of silk entirely of bias folds trimmed on the edge with gold galloon completes the bodice with a short upper sleeve of the same folds. A hip yoke of folds, shaped enough to curve around the body, fitting quite flat, is the feature of the skirt which falls in plaits below and beginning at either side of the front, some of the skirts have a narrow tablier front of soft silk or mousseline, accordion plated and, laced across from either edge of the skirt to the knee with velvet ribbon forming diamond shaped lines and tied in a full bow with ends for a finish. The same effect in a narrow width may be used up the outside of the sleeve.

A novel bolero of lace is shown in one of the evening gowns illustrated where velvet ribbon is run through the edge and tied in a rosette bow. The gown is made of white chiffon dotted over with jet sequins the skirt being striped with wide lace insertion. Crepe de chine, with wide motives of lace embroidered with gold, forms another pretty gown, while the third is a combination of mousseline de soie, forming the flounce, sleeves and neck finish, lace and cloth in the most delicate shade of gray. Black velvet forms the bow on the front of the corsage.

### FRILLS OF FASHION.

Among the novelties in trimmings now in use are the narrow bands of gold cloth studded with jet nail heads or little flat black velvet buttons, bands of black velvet embroidered in colors, and Persian embroidery on white cloth. Laces dotted with gold or jet beads and embroidered with gold thread are also very popular.

Evening gloves with embroidered eyelets and facing at the top are one of the new fads, and it seems to be a useful one for keeping the gloves up at the top.

Swiss muslins in great variety are displayed in the shops, some with very realistic designs in large flowers, others embroidered with white, black or the same color as the garment, and without limit as to patterns. Challies in Persian designs and colorings with satin stripes are brought out again in tempting array, and then there is a new muslin, rather wiry in texture, which shows varying tints in shaded stripes.

A novel plan for protecting a dainty silk or lawn shirt waist is suggested in an underwaist of very thin fine lawn, made with bishop sleeves gathered into dainty cuffs of lace or embroidery, a small round yoke of lace or embroidery and a transparent choker. This can be laundered, and the outside waist is made more dressy by cutting it out to meet the chemisette yoke of the underwaist.

Youthful black evening gowns are in great demand this season, all because young women find that they can acquire more distinction in a black gown than in any other. Something pretty is a black point d'esprit made over white taffeta silk and trimmed with wreaths of tiny pink roses. Gold braid made into something which resembles a rose is another form of trimming for this style of gown, and for the decollete bodice there is a narrow yoke and belt of the gold cloth embroidered with blue silk and turquoises.

Large Leghorn hats, drooping in front and back, are said to be a feature of the

coming millinery for summer. They have all high crowns encircled by roses arranged in a stiff manner, and a soft ribbon caught on the edge of the brim in front is carried to the edge of the brim in the back where it is tied in a bow.

### IRISH LINEN LOSING GROUND.

French and American Manufacturers Getting Hold of the Market Here.

Linen of domestic manufacture and, still more, linen made in France, are together making a strong fight in the American market against the Irish linen which for years has been accepted as the best and finest manufactured in the world, and importers say that the Irish linens are losing ground. In France just as fine linen is being made now as in Ireland and it is much better in design because while the conservative Irishmen stick to the patterns they have been using for the last fifty years, the French manufacturers are employing artists, who have produced very much handsomer designs.

The Frenchmen are handicapped in their attempt to get first place in the American market, however, by trying to introduce a new fashion here. Instead of making up their linen in individual pieces they manufacture it in lengths, intending that a section as long as may be desired shall be cut off by the retailer when making a sale, and as this chops into the patterns many housewives don't care to buy their linen in this way.

In the English market the attempt to sell linen in this way has been a failure, but in this country, where new ideas have a better chance than in England, the manufacturers have not given up the attempt of making the purchase of linen in lengths fashionable.

German made linen has the poorest reputation in the American market, as it is starched and artificially thickened so that while it looks well when new it does not stand the test of a washing. It is this cheap but dishonest linen which the American made article is driving out of the market.

Climate largely influences the color of new linen, and therefore while domestic made linen has not yet acquired the snowy whiteness of Irish and French linen, it can be sold more cheaply, and unlike the German linen, improves with use.

### THEIR BLUE AND WHITE COVERS.

A Blizzard of Letters set in Motion by a Brooklyn Woman's Mistake.

A Brooklyn woman who writes for a newspaper syndicate has been having the time of her life lately.

'Not long ago,' she says, mournfully, 'I thought I had a brilliant idea. I wrote an article about the different ways in which women who are thrown on their own resources manage to earn money. I scoured around a good deal and got a lot of facts about women who turn buyers and house cleaners and pickle makers and all that sort of thing.

'I got some valuable information at the Woman's Exchange. Among other interesting items that I picked up there was one about these old fashioned blue and white coverlets which our grandmothers wove. I understood them to say at the exchange that these coverlets would bring from \$50 to \$150 apiece. I promptly incorporated this pleasing bit of information in my article and sent it out.

'The syndicate sends its stuff all over the country—into the pine woods of Maine the swamps of Florida, the mining towns of the West and even into the wilds of Alaska, for all I know. At any rate, I think I got letters from all these places as well as the sections in between. My mail mounted into the tons. I was simply snowed under by an epistolary blizzard from women who wanted to sell their blue and white coverlets for from \$50 to \$150, preferably the later figure.

'It snowed letters until I was actually obliged to have circulars printed, which I could send to the writers. I made a wrathful visit to the Woman's exchange, but I melted somewhat when I found that the blizzard had struck them too. I have concluded that our grandmothers sat up nights and Sundays to weave those coverlets.'

### THE BRIDE'S PROMISE TO OBEY.

Opposed by a Religious Paper as a Remnant of Comparative Barbarism

The promise of the wife to obey [in the marriage service] is the ragged remnant from the days when women were the despised servants and drudges of men. In old English usage the woman promised to be 'buxom' (bow-some, submissive). Now the phrase is, in nearly all churches, that she will 'love, honor and obey' him. The obedience is made very pronounced, and after the service, as they march from the church, the organ rattles out the music of 'Now you are married, you must obey,' and the bride is gibed about her promise, and declares that she had told the expectant groom that she would say it, but that she did not mean to keep the vow. What

ought to be the most serious promise of marriage, the pledge of dutiful affection and fidelity, becomes a joke and a farce, just because priest and people will keep in the service of marriage the words which perpetuate an antiquated, obsolete condition of social life.

Still clergymen of conservative ideas and whole denominations that provide a required form of marriage, insist on the retention of the falsehood. Sometimes they even try to justify it from scripture. They quote Paul on the silence and obedience of woman, as if what was right in Paul's day were to be right always. They even go back to the Garden of Eden for argument. But we know better now, because social and moral conditions are better. When the condition changes the law changes.

But the sad thing is to see these teachers of religion requiring women to perjure themselves on such solemn occasion, to promise to do what they do not intend to do, and ought not to engage to do. It is of a piece with the pledge required of ministers or theological professors giving their adhesion to a creed which was made generations ago, and which can be accepted only in some very loose construction of language. It tends to insincerity, to flippancy of thought about marriage, even to misunderstandings and differences that leads to quarrels and divorce.

Marriage is the foundation of society; it should be the fit foundation for the best society we know. Such society requires the best development of woman as well as of man. It makes neither a tyrant and neither a slave, but each the helpful mate and adviser of the other. In such society as the christian religion has developed, with education and culture the right and the achievement of the woman as well as of the man should be recognized. To require the woman to put herself under the will of the man, to obey him, as well as to love and honor him, is a cruel, wicked anachronism; and no clergyman is justified in compelling a woman to make such a promise, and hardly so even if she desires to make it. For her to make it is to dishonor her sex, if she intends to keep it; and if not, it is a falsehood which, on such a solemn occasion and on so serious a subject approaches prejury. — [Independent]

### THE GIRL AND THE PORTRAIT.

An Instance of the Influence of Heredity at a Picture Gallery.

Doctors disagree as to the influence of heredity. Some hold that a great deal hinges upon it, others believe the contrary. Some of the authentic stories told to exemplify this mysterious bond between ancestors and descendants are very curious.

There was a lone collection of old portraits exhibited in London lately and a young girl was among the visitors. She was an orphan and wealthy, but without near relatives and was often heard to complain of the loneliness of her position.

As she passed through the gallery one particular portrait attracted her attention and she went back to it more than once. Her companion saw in it nothing but the commonplace painting of a middle-aged man in the costume of the latter part of the last century.

'It is such a nice kind face,' said the girl, rather wistfully. 'I imagine my father might have looked like that had he lived.'

As most of the pictures were ticketed the visitors had purchased no catalogue but, before going away, Miss B. bought one at the entrance and made a last visit to the portrait for which she had felt so strong an attraction. To her astonishment she found her own name opposite to its number and learned on inquiry that the original was one of her direct ancestors.

Another occult coincidence or psychological phenomenon happened a few years ago to a Southern statesman and financier whose family has always been of rank in his native state. This gentleman was overhauling old documents and letters which had been stored in a dusty chest for years and intended to publish whatever might be of historic value and interest.

To his surprise he unfolded a letter yellow and time-stained which was written in his own peculiar handwriting, or seemed to have been written by him, although the date was two generations before his birth. The signature of the surname, which was the same as his own was so markedly characteristic that he could scarcely believe his own hand did not pen the letters. So it sometimes happens that handwriting as well as features and character is handed down in families.

### Twins in two Centuries

A very singular occurrence has taken place at Archiestown in Banffshire. A workman's wife gave birth to twins—a boy and girl—on New Year's Eve. The boy arrived three hours before the clock struck the close of the century. The girl was born at 4 o'clock on New Year's morning.

So that the twins have a century between them, or, at any rate, one is unjennibly a nineteenth century boy and the other a twentieth century girl. This is surely unique in births.

### HELEN KELLER'S PROGRESS.

Unusual Ability in English Shows by the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Girl.

One of the most interesting things about the new term which has just begun at Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Mass., is the progress of Helen Keller, the deaf, dumb and blind girl, who is a student here. She has so distinguished herself in her English work that she has been promoted in the middle of the year to a course open only to the brightest students, that called English 12 in the college catalogue.

The English course which Miss Keller elected when she entered college was in itself more advanced than most freshmen take, but now only after half a year at its exercises her instructor pronounces her quite fit to go up higher. In the words of the professor himself: 'We can teach her nothing more in this class.' The course which Miss Keller has on'grown is English 22, conducted in Radcliffe by Charles Townsend Copeland, who has expressed the opinion that Miss Keller possesses abilities far above the average in the matter of English composition.

In permitting Miss Keller to enter English 12 Radcliffe has done something almost unprecedented. The higher course is a very difficult one, and has almost never been taken here by a girl so young as Helen Keller, not to take into account at all the fact of the blind girl's handicaps. The course in question is connected both in Harvard and Radcliffe by John Hays Gardiner and is open only to such students as have shown unusual ability in the matter of English and have finished course 22 with a high mark.

The work of the course includes various kinds of writing, and the lectures deal with such problems of expression as arise in the class productions, and in the development of a good English prose style. Miss Keller's style has always been excellent. From the time she first began to write she has written easily and well. In the matter of literary and classical allusions she is very apt and especially excels in analytical treatment of a subject.

At the lectures Miss Keller is accompanied by her friend, Miss Sullivan, who sits close beside her and tells her in the manual language whatever the instructor may be saying. In none of the lectures are notes taken. This girl carries off in her head the facts with which her fellow students fill their note books.

Perhaps the most remarkable work done by Miss Keller comes in connection with the history course given by Prof. Archibald Cary Coolidge. The latter is a very interesting, but a rather discursive, lecturer and he covers in a year a tremendous amount of ground. That any student could pass a good examination on the substance of his lectures without having had the benefit of exhaustive notes and careful review would be a marvel all by itself. But this is only one of the many remarkable things Helen Keller is accomplishing.

Miss Keller's work does not in the least prevent her from taking an active part in the social life of the college. She particularly delights in hearing stories and one or two girls have learned the sign language that they may entertain her. She is vice-president of her class and attends all the functions given by her class-mates. At a recent class luncheon she even responded to a toast, winning great applause by her maiden speech. But the best thing that can be said of her is that she is radiantly happy in her college career. With some anxiety her friends have been watching to see whether the college days so long looked forward to might not perhaps bring in realization something of disillusion. Nothing of the kind has happened however.

'She is the happiest girl I have ever seen,' one of these friends remarked.

And anybody who should see the blind girl as she goes from one lecture room to another would be inclined emphatically to echo this superlative.

### The New Overcoat.

Men's fashions for spring are slowly taking form, but already the style of the overcoat is pretty well defined, and changes are numerous and more or less striking.

The new covert overcoat is longer and reaches nearly to the knees. The shoulders have a decided effect of squareness by bringing the seam right on the top a la military, and the sleeve itself is cut through the centre with no other seam. The side pockets are horizontal, but no others appear on the outside, for it is the fashion to have the breast pockets inside.

This is one of the features of the spring

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noises in the Head by Dr. Nicholson Artificial Ear Drums, has sent £1,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Apply to The Institute, 780 Regent Avenue, New York.

## Tonight

If your liver is out of order, causing Biliousness, Sick Headache, Heartburn, or Constipation, take a dose of

## Hood's Pills

On retiring, and tomorrow your digestive organs will be regulated and you will be bright, active and ready for any kind of work. This has been the experience of others; it will be yours. HOOD'S PILLS are sold by all medicine dealers. 25 cts.

Chesterfield, the plain box overcoat of the season. The advantage of placing these pockets on the inside is that it prevents an unsightly crease from the pocket welt to the shoulder point. The sleeve is a trifle narrower than last season, and has a cuff four inches deep and quite plain.

The fly fronted overcoat which will be worn this spring has a turn of front similar to the Chesterfield, save for the waist seam, which is cut fairly hollow, and behind usual features of the frock overcoat are retained. The length of the coat brings it three or four inches below the knee or the middle of the calf, and a decidedly dressy effect is the style. Speaking of the tight fitting garment, the sack coat of spring will be shaped to the body as last year, but the excessive fullness on the hips will be omitted. The single breasted frock coat which is a favorite of King Edward VII., will be much affected this spring, and a revival of the cutaway is noted for afternoon wear.

If there's a Hint of Catarrh Taint apply Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder without delay. It will save you suffering, heal you quickly whether you have been a slave one month or fifty years. It relieves cold in the head and catarrhal headaches in ten minutes. The Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice for the Dominion of Canada, endorses it. 50 cents.—129

'A woman is always as old as she looks,' said the timid young man, who desired to be dignifiedly frivolous in his conversation with the Boston maiden.

'But she is never as old as she looks,' was the coy rejoinder.

And they lived happily ever after.

'500 People Badly Bent' have in effect used these words in speaking of the curative qualities of South American Rheumatic Cure.—'My legs were crippled'—'My hands were distorted'—'My joints were swollen'—'My back was bent double'—'My pain was excruciating'—'Bedridden for years.' This great remedy has been the heaven-sent agent that worked a permanent cure.—130

'Yes, that's my wife down in the cellar chopping kindlings.'

'How does that happen?'

'She's an idea that she's a second Mrs. Nation, and I'm encouraging her to learn the use of the hatchet.'

No Heart too Bad to be Cured.—Testimony could be piled high in commendation of the wonderful cures wrought by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart. No case stands against this great remedy where it did not relieve the most acute heart sufferings inside of thirty minutes. It attacks the disease in an instant after being taken.—131

'Crazy Snake, that hostile Creek Indian, seems to be badly rattled,' said the Observant Boarder.

'Perhaps he is a rattlesnake,' added the Cross-Eyed Boarder.

Cure the Nerves and you will control almost every disease that flesh is heir to. The foundation of health is a perfect stomach and good digestion—these right and you are insured plenty of nerve force, perfect circulation and pure blood. South American Nerve is a wonder-worker—gives nerve force—makes rich blood. It's a veritable "Elixir of Life."—132

Phil Ossiter—Fortune knocks at every man's door but once in a lifetime.

Ben Broke—Well, I'm not going to take any chances; how am I to know the knock of Fortune from the knock of the gas collector.

Pill-Price.—The days of 25 cents a box for pills are numbered. Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills at 10 cents a vial are surer, safer and pleasanter to take. Cure Constipation, Sick and Nervous Headaches, Dizziness, Lassitude, Heartburn, Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, and all troubles arising from liver disorder.—133

Captain (to new middy)—Well, youngster, the old story I suppose? Fool of the family sent to sea, eh?

Little Cherub—Oh, no, sir; that's all been altered since your day.

How long have your kidneys been sick?—Here's South American Kidney Cure evidence that's convincing: "I am a new man—three bottles cured me." "Five bottles cured me of Diabetes." "I never expected to be cured of Bright's Disease, but half a dozen bottles did it." "I thought my days were numbered, but this great remedy cured me." It never fails.—134

Teacher—And how do you know, my dear, that you have been christened?

Scholar—Please, mum, 'cause I got the marks on my arm now, mum.

Doctored Nine Years for Tetter.—Mr. James Gaston, merchant, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., writes: "For nine years I have been disfigured with Tetter on my hands and face." At last I have found a cure in Dr. Agnew's Ointment. It helped me from the first application, and now I am permanently cured.—135