

Chat of the Boudoir.

To any one but the fashionable up-to-date woman the display of gauzy summer fabrics in the shops so early in January would be disheartening indeed. But nothing in the line of prospective needs in dress can daunt the twentieth century woman.

No self-sacrifice is too great for her to endure if she can buy her July clothes before the winter has fairly begun; so the wily shop keeper spread out the new satin foulards, silk mousselines and batistes in the most alluring manner, soon after Christmas, to catch her eye when she came to exchange her presents. He knew the temptation would be irresistible, and so it is.

The patterns are attractive, the colors fascinating and the prices so low in comparison with the winter velvets and cloths, that two or three gowns can be purchased for the price of one of the heavier fabrics. But, alas! the few yards of material does not represent a tithe of the expenses which rolls up later when you pay for the making. However, this consideration is a matter so far in the future that it has no effect on the shopper's zeal.

The new satin foulards are chiefly in small patterns and well covered. Different sized polka dots and oblong spots are arranged to form a design which has a striking effect. Of course there is a great variety in the patterns, but the large distinctive patterns conspicuously outlined against a light background are in the minority in this first importation, which is encouraging as an evidence of good taste. The prevailing colors are navy blue, pastel blue and tan patterned with white, with sometimes a bit of black in the design.

Black and white foulards, or rather, white with black patterns, are very attractive, and will be very popular, as every thing in black and white is sure to be. If the display of tan shades in all the new fabrics has any significance they are to be much worn.

There is a large variety of tan and biscuit colors among the foulards, and you see them in great variety among the batistes, and Swiss muslins. A novelty in linen batiste is embroidered by machine in silk of different colors and different designs. This is especially attractive and costs \$2 a yard, double width.

Then there are pretty batistes with Persian stripes in silk, plain satin stripes in different colors, and the always pretty polka dots. These are in linen color, but there are other batistes in dainty tints of blue and pink and heliotrope.

The blue Swiss muslins embroidered with white are charming and they cost from 40 cents up to \$2 50 a yard. In the mercerized cotton mousselines, too, there is great variety in design and coloring, costing only 88 cents a yard, so there is something dainty to suit every purse.

Novelty serge is one of the new fabrics shown in a variety of plain colors, while still another also in plain delicate colors is the cotton and silk crepe at \$1.25 a yard. It comes in all the pretty light colors, and is almost as glossy as if it were all silk.

Cotton and silk grenadines add dainty variety to the list, which lengthens every year, especially in the department where cotton dress goods are sold. Each succeeding year shows some new mixture of cotton and silk, cotton and linen; some new weave, something new in finish which disguises the appearance of the cotton completely.

One Woman's Chat.

A writer in the Medical Record sounds a wise and timely note of warning in regard to dangers of rushing young children too rapidly through their studies. He declares that our modern educational system is greatly at fault in laying too much stress upon examinations, and in developing the minds of children too often at the expense of their vitality and health.

The stress of modern education, he says has enormously taxed the brains of children by the multiplicity of studies. Children cannot assimilate the ideas in widely differing departments of knowledge at one and the same time. The effort to do so deranges in many instances the entire nervous system of the child. The so-called nervous child is not only not normal, but may be the victim of the education methods of the present day.

One of the most melancholy spectacles is a hat bedecked with gray, drooping and forlorn ostrich plumes that were once snowy white and now look quite as though life were not worth living since their curls had disappeared.

It is always best to send them to a professional cleaner when they have been reduced to this sorry plight, but for those who cannot avail themselves of his services

the following method of cleaning is recommended. Cover the feathers with a paste made of pipe clay and water by rubbing them only one way. When dry shake to free them of the powder and then curl them with an ivory paper cutter or the back of a silver knife.

As a good digestion is one of the secrets of preserving excellent health, mothers should be very careful about the contents of their children's lunch boxes.

Those who must eat cold food day after day soon lose their appetites unless the one who attends to the packing of these noontime repasts has been thoughtful enough to supply variety and tempting little surprises. Fruit is one of the most important articles of diet at all times, and as long as it is procurable, which has come to be almost throughout the year, should form the principal part of the school lunch instead of the usual generous slice of cake or pie.

A woman who goes to Nome must be prepared to carry her own pack, unless she has money enough to hire somebody to do it for, her in which case it is argued that she is rich enough to stay at home. There are just two circumstances in which women in that section of the country find that they receive better treatment than men.

For instance, if a woman falls down in the mud, and when there is not ice there is nothing but mud to fall in, the men will run with one accord to pick her up. Again when the mail comes in the men line up at the post office and the string often extends 200 yards into street. These men guard these places for one another with the most jealous care, and let a woman come along and without a murmur the men fall back and give her first chance at the mail window.

Can it be possible that at last there is a shadow of hope that we may see our men folk in something approaching picturesque evening garb? The reformation of men's evening dress has so long been discussed that it has come to be as the cry of 'wolf.'

For some time past we have been resigned to what seemed the inevitable. But a ray of light has been suddenly perceived in the rumor that an attempt is to be made to introduce knee breeches of black satin and silken hose for the evening wear of gentlemen. With these they would continue to wear the present 'claw-hammer' coat stiff fronted shirt and tie, but fancy waistcoats would be encouraged. It is to be hoped that there is some truth in the rumor.

New York, as well as Europe, has men dressmakers. As a rule men milliners are more often to be found than men who have the trepidity to meddle with gowns. There is one of the men modistes in Watkins, N. Y. He is not yet 30, has been in business for nine years, and has made a reputation for himself which brings him custom from many people who live in other parts of the state and country.

All the planning for the gowns made in his establishment the young man does himself; puts on the trimming and the most delicate parts of the work; those which give style to the frock are done under his careful observation. He has several women assistants whom he has instructed.

A woman who has never but once had lobster boiled in her house because, though she did not see the operation, she knew that an unfortunate was put to death; who never thinks of poultry as chickens or turkeys, and who would as soon think of eating a baby as a rabbit because she once had bunnies for pets, dropped into a friend's the other day just before dinner was served and remained for the meal.

'I hope you like chicken, said the hostess, with some anxiety as she, with her guest, passed out into the dining-room.

'Oh, yes, I am very fond of it, answered the guest reassuringly. 'But your chicken seems to be all dark meat,' she said a little later, as she ate a portion of what seemed to her deliciously cooked chicken.

'You see, I couldn't help it, said the hostess as they left the table, 'but that was rabbit. I wouldn't have deceived you if it had not happened just as it did, but when you drop in to dinner the last minute we must give you what we have.'

Walking In a Watch.

A promenade inside a watch that is all the while doing its ordinary duty of telling the time is a pleasure in store for visitors to the forthcoming St. Louis Exhibition. It is even stated that a small restaurant, with waiters, cooks and the ordinary paraphernalia of such an institution, is to be located inside this monster timepiece. The watch is already in course of construction. Its dimensions, as quoted by the Chicago News, are, for a timepiece, enormous, the

diameter being nearly seventy-five feet and the height more than forty feet.

Tiny staircases will be scattered throughout the watch, and there will be spacious galleries, where visitors may pass and re-pass with ease. The wheels will be so well protected that no one can suffer injury either to person or clothing.

The wheel known as the balance wheel will, in this monster watch, weigh a ton, while the so called hair spring will be considerably thicker than a rolling pin. Approximately two minutes will be consumed by the swings back and forth of the wheel above mentioned. This wheel will be pivoted on two huge agate blocks.

Needless to say, the mainspring of this extraordinary watch will be enormous. Three hundred feet will hardly measure its length, and it is to be made of ten spring steel bands, two inches thick, bound together, as it would be impossible to roll so large a piece.

When finished the watch will lie on its back. It will possess a polished metal case similar to those used for watches of ordinary dimensions.

Saved His Money.

Many boys have been thrilled to sleeplessness by stories of the Australian bush rangers. Mr. George E. Boxall's historic study of these lawless bands, 'The Story of the Australian Bushranger,' contains material enough for a dozen volumes of adventure. Here is one episode:

A man named Michel who went to an inn for food found the place in the hands of the bushrangers. Fourteen guests were already disarmed and were being searched in order. Michel was compelled to take his place in line.

The bushrangers handed him a pannikin full of tea before they took his money. Knowing what was coming, he held the pannikin as if the tea were too hot to drink, and when the leader of the highwaymen was looking away, dropped his roll of bank-notes into it. He stood very quietly, and when the bushrangers came to feel his pockets, there were only a few shillings in them. The robbers appeared satisfied, and allowed him to go. He carried the pannikin out with him, took his money and put it in his pocket without being observed. Then he mounted his horse, rode to the nearest police station and gave information.

Brother To The Ostrich.

A Minnesota paper tells of a giant buff cochin rooster, owned by a Mr. Plumason of Luverne, Minnesota, which has been trained to trot in harness, pulling a tiny cart, in which rides the baby son of its owner.

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Golden Duke is the name of this strangest of iowls, and it is a prize winner in its class, as well as a freak. The big bird was broken to harness by the boys of the Plumason household, and now seems to enjoy its work. It wears a little harness and is guided by reins, which, it carries in its bill. It is the master of several gaits, and at the word of command, given by the small child who is driving, it will walk, run, trot, or come to a standstill. At home in the country the big rooster often pulls the cart and its occupant for half a mile or more without stopping.

Sunday Laws Are Obsolete.

The Sunday laws are obsolete, not merely in the city, but throughout the state. There is not a country in which they are strictly enforced.

The practical question is, What shall we of New York do about it?

The Mayor by implication, and the district attorney expressly, are pledged to try to procure legislation which shall, as Mr. Low has put it, recognize the cosmopolitan character of the city's population, and take down the legal barriers in the way of what so large a number of our people regard as an innocent indulgence.

We do not see that they are relieved from the obligation to do what in them warns them beforehand that it will be of no use. They should do their best to bring it about that what so many refuse to regard as a 'malum in se' shall no longer be a 'malum prohibitum.'

By so doing they will take the responsibility from their own shoulders and put it where it belongs.

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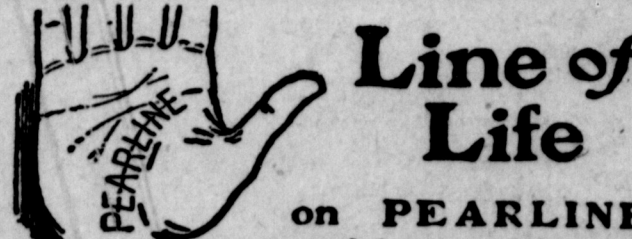
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