

Chat of the Boudoir.

A Fashionable Gown.

Narrow velvet ribbons are much used as lacings, for instance, on a gown of mauve homespun, the bodice entirely tucked and fastened loosely down the front with interlaced velvet ribbons of pansy purple tint which reveal the softness of lace and chiffon beneath, while then the bodice is slashed open for a few inches at either side to repeat the pretty effect and the under-sleeves, too, are laced closely together below the drooping puff at the elbow. But the most notably novel feature of this original gown is the high collar, which is made in one with a little shoulder cape, and which is arranged in encircling tucks to distinguish it from the under bodice and again utilizing the velvet lacings or fastening. You can imagine something of the resulting smartness, especially if the costume be crowned by a toque of tacked velvet with clustering pansies and violets for its trimming.

The New Coiffure.

The new coiffure has been so cleverly arranged that it is quite charming, and not only is it becoming to most faces, but there is a suggestion of youthfulness about it which tends to take several years off a woman's apparent age. And this will surely do more to make the low coil popular than anything else. It must be confessed that the first attempt at the new arrangement is not always successful, for it shatters any illusions you may have as to your hair. The tresses which were ample when used literally as your 'crowning glory,' seem miserably inadequate when called upon to form a long and important coil, but in these days of 'transformations,' and 'additional coils,' and so forth, this is a matter that need not weary any woman for long.

Rings.

Some say a beautiful hand looks most beautiful unadorned, others, that the woman who has an ugly hand should not call attention to its defects by wearing handsome rings.

In such a case the jeweler would go bankrupt, for no one would wear rings. Happily for the jeweller, notions vary considerably. But one rule is certain. The woman who has stumpy fingers dwarfs them still further by wearing rings, and certainly the woman who has a long lean hand improves it greatly by wearing the pretty sparkling jewels. The whiteness of the skin is greatly enhanced by the wearing of pink coral or turquoises.

One Woman's Cheat.

The rage for card playing seems to be more pronounced than ever among the smart set in Europe and America, and the game that can furnish the best gambling possibilities is easily first choice. Bridge whist, at which society men and women have made and lost unconscionable sums, and about which the most scathing sermons have been preached, is to be superseded, so it is said, by a noted German game called 'scat,' that is supposed to be a favorite pastime of Emperor William, and beside which the game of bridge is a mere child's play.

People who are not disturbed by disorder when well are often disturbed by least confusion in the arrangement of a room when ill. Nothing should be allowed to lie around carelessly. The table should not be littered with books and papers. Flowers should be kept no longer than absolutely fresh. Medicine and water glasses should be kept from the sight of the patients.

No food should ever be prepared in the sick room. If only a small bowl of broth, it should be served as invitingly as possible. Nor should a bowl of broth or gruel or a cup of tea be carried in the hand to the sick person; place it on a tray covered with a clean napkin. Bring but a little quantity at a time, for the sight of a large quantity is apt to take away the patient's appetite. If possible always serve too little, reserving a supper until asked for more.

Patience is the principal stock in trade of the repairer of artistic china, a broken article having often to be cemented again, no fewer than five or six times before the artist is satisfied with his work. Missing portions are made good with plaster of paris, the plaster when it is set and hard, being dextrously carved with soft tools into the required shape. It is then coated with lacquer or gum to give a non-absorbent surface, and afterward with a fine brush and water colors. The original decoration is reproduced with fidelity.

It is particularly noticeable in the china

shops that the old-fashioned white china with gilt is becoming popular. These sets are almost duplicate of the old fashioned 'tea sets' of our grandmothers' early days and come in the old fashioned shapes made of fine clear ware. Of course this ware is costly, and therefore the woman who has retained as a family heirloom her grandmother's set is indeed fortunate.

Hot milk is the newest panacea for all complexion ills. If the face is wrinkled, sallow or otherwise afflicted, hot milk, says the enthusiast over this new remedy, will produce a cure. Converts declare that the face, after being washed with milk at night, feels wonderfully refreshed, while the skin becomes very white and soft. Some even go so far as to pour a generous quantity of milk into the water for the bath and claim that it is positively magical in removing fatigue.

An attic room, with its sloping ceiling and irregular walls, can be converted into the most charming little 'den' imaginable. The dormer windows seem just made for a broad, low window seat, and its pile of downy pillows.

The odd chairs and bits of furniture that appear so out of place in other parts of the modern house often fit into this quaintly shaped room quite as though they had been purchased for that very purpose, and the bric-a-brac and novelties in the way of pictures and plaster casts that have been marked down to such ridiculously low prices since the holidays, make it possible to fit up one of the retreats very attractively at very small cost.

Scrap-Book Suggestions.

At a recent loan exhibition of curios was shown something odd in the way of scrap-books, says Woman's Home Companion. It was begun some 25 years ago and contains samples of dresses worn by its originator during that quarter of a century. Alongside these for the past 14 years have been pasted pieces of the cloths worn by a daughter, for whom the book is now intended. By the time this daughter is a woman grown she will possess the record of fabrics of two generations, and even more for the first entries in the book are scraps of the grandmother's wedding outfit. Among the last named are soft all wool goods spun and woven at home, with here and there a silk thread intermingled, from homeraised silk worms.

The personal entries for the daughter begin with dainty lawns, laces, embroideries and cashmeres of her baby days, along with a tiny pink silk first sock and a photograph of a baldheaded infant. Then follow the dimities and fine ginghams of the first shirt cloths and the ribbon-bound flannel sacks in colors, along with the velveteens and plushes of cloaks and hoods. Accompanying one scrap of embroidery and lawn was a line saying it was the last long dress worn before donning the shorter outfit. Opposite all these pages are samples of the dresses and wraps worn by the mother at this time.

The time may come when the ruby will take the precedence over the diamond in point of value if rarity makes the value, for the glowing red stone is becoming more and more scarce. India, China and Ceylon furnish the most beautiful rubies and in the states of the Grand Mogul no rubies can be exported without being first subjected to the inspection of the sovereign.

Russia possesses the largest ruby in Europe, and it is considered one of the rarest jewels of the imperial court. That of the Shah of Persia is said to weigh 175 carats.

The carbuncle, which has figured in so many fanciful tales and legends and which the ancients regarded with superstition, is in reality a ruby. In times past it was believed that rubies contained luminous rays. The truth is that they have double refraction and send out the red rays with unequalled brilliancy.

Traversed in a vacuum by an electric current, they are illuminated with a red fire of extreme intensity. The greatest heat does not change their form or their color.

Potato Salad.

Wash and scrub six medium-sized potatoes, and boil them without peeling until they are not quite done. They must not be cooked until they are mealy, for a mushy potato salad is not attractive. Peel them out then into quarters lengthwise, and then slice as thin as possible into a broad bowl. Add to each layer of potatoes a sprinkling of fine shredded onion and celery, using in all one onion and one cup of celery. Season with salt and pepper the same as if you were seasoning it at table, using also a very small quantity of cayenne or nepaul pepper and finely chopped parsley. Over each layer of potato pour one tablespoon of oil and one scant tablespoon of vinegar. When all the potatoes are sliced, toss it up carefully with two forks

and set it away in a cool place. After it is chilled you may find it will need more salt or vinegar. When ready to serve make it into a smooth mound and sprinkle minced parsley over the surface and decorate with a tuft of celery at one end, and lengthwise quarters of hard-boiled eggs at the other.

It has long been a matter of conjecture among women why men have continued to wear the regulation evening dress that their fashion mentor has dictated when it is also the correct waiter's uniform—making the matter of distinguishing the gentleman from the servant a most difficult one at times. However there is a rumor about that black satin knee breeches and silk stockings will soon be adopted by smart dressers for wear with their 'swallow tails' which will certainly be a relief and will also give a quaint and picturesque air to the hitherto sombre grab.

Modest Fees.

Lawyers do not usually get the small end of a bargain with their clients, but the Green Bag recalls two incidents where the clients had rather the best of it.

Sir Walter Scott's first client was a burglar. He got the fellow off, but the man declared that he hadn't a penny to give him for his services. Two bits of useful information he offered, however, and with these the young lawyer had to be content. The first was that a yelping terrier inside the house was a better protection against thieves than a big dog outside; and the second, that no sort of lock bothered his craft so much as an old, rusty one.

Small compensation as this was, the first brief of the noted French lawyer, Monsieur Rouher, yielded still less. The peasant for whom Monsieur Rouher won the case asked him how much he owed him.

'Oh, say two francs,' said the modest young advocate.

'Two francs!' exclaimed the peasant. That is very high. Won't you let me off with a franc and a half?'

'No,' said the counsel; 'two francs or nothing.'

'Well, then,' said his client, 'I'd rather pay nothing.'

And with a bow he left.

It Was a Dream.

When a certain divine, now filling one of the most prominent pulpits in Philadelphia, was a younger man and chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania, like other ministers who filled that position he was much troubled over the apparent lack of attention from the students during the morning exercises in the chapel.

The exercises hardly ever continued for more than fifteen minutes. Some of the students were in the habit of taking their

books into the chapel and studying there during the services, to make up for their tardiness of the night before in not preparing their lessons.

The young chaplain was desirous of breaking up the habit, so one morning, preceding his customary five minutes' address, he spoke as follows:

'Young gentlemen, last night I dreamed I was here in the chapel addressing you; and as I spoke I saw every eye fixed upon me, every man attentive, while in all the chapel there was not a book opened—and then I knew it was a dream.'

Two Christmas Presents.

He was a small, thin faced boy, with an overcoat which covered 60 per cent. of his arms and a less percentage of his legs. He had a couple of small bundles under one arm, and he was evidently almost bursting with a desire to talk to somebody when he clambered on the grip of a Madison street cable train late on the afternoon of Christmas eve. A damp and clammy air was abroad that evening, and it happened there was only one other passenger on the grip when the small boy swung up into a seat. He looked at the other passenger and the other passenger looked at him. The other passenger made up his mind that the youth was an underpaid and under-fed office boy, and the boy apparently concluded that the other passenger was a safe man to confide in.

Ge, said the boy, as he edged a little closed to the other passenger. I got off a job better than I thought I would.

Did you? said the other passenger.

You bet, said the boy. Look a here. He took a cover off a dirty little paste board box and displayed a made up necktie that may possibly have cost 10 cents. Certainly not more.

The boss gimme that,' he said. Then he pulled out the other package and unwrapped it. It was a handsomely bound and handsomely illustrated copy of Cooper's 'Spy,' the book of all others to fascinate a boy of 14—if you doubt his age look at the affidavit. The book must have cost at least a dollar. 'And the boss-stenographer grimme that,' he went on.

The other passenger wondered why Christmas should be something from which a child should be surprised to 'get off' from better than he expected, and also spent a few minutes in considering the different standpoints from which the 'boss' and the 'boss stenographer' looked at the matter of giving Christmas presents.

Here are a half a dozen prescriptions would like to have you fill as soon as you can, wheezed Rivers.

I can see they are all for the cure of a cold, remarked the druggist looking them over.

It's this way, explained Rivers, when I had the other cold I tried all these. One of 'em cured me, but I can't remember now, confound it, which one it was.

Neighbor—The baby suffers from sleeplessness, does it?

Mr. Jeroloman (haggard and hollow-eyed)—I didn't say it suffered. It seems to enjoy it. I'm the one that suffers.

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Physicians are calling attention to the fact that influenza or grip has come to stay. In the larger cities there has been a marked increase in diseases affecting the organs of respiration, which increase is attributed to the prevalence of influenza. Persons who are recovering from grip or influenza are in a weak condition and peculiarly liable to pulmonary disease.

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