

GRADUATION GOWNS.

THE SEASON AT HAND FOR THEIR APPEARANCE.

Materials That Are Popular - Big Sleeves Will be Used - Two Sweet Costumes A Gown for a Fair Graduate.

VERY parent who has a daughter at school is interested in planning garments for the period of graduation exercises now so near at hand. There is nothing in the life of a girl that raises brighter anticipations, or calls for greater sympathy from loving parents, and admiring friends, than that culmination of her girlish dreams - graduation. The glamour of youth is about her, and it is entirely proper that she should be robed on the important occasion in a costume that shall realize to some extent the beauty and purity of her dreams of life.

It may be laid down as an axiom that the graduate in gown should never be decollete, and that the material in the main should be white. Color may be added in the form of ribbons, bows and flowers, but the main material must be white or of some of the delicate cream shades now so popular.

With the younger graduates flowers and ribbons and lace may be somewhat freely employed, as is shown in the accompanying illustration of two very pretty designs for sweet girl graduates. The materials popular are satin, thin muslin, Indian lawn, white or cream organdie, dimity, white alpaca, etc. The complexion, style and character of each girl needs to be studied. Simplicity is the chief object, and a mother who has taste and skill will

For Sweet Girl Graduates.

generally elaborate a better costume than a professional dressmaker, because she will have no false notion of her daughter being a walking advertisement of a costumer's art. Above all things, the girl graduate should be treated as a girl. She is not yet in society, not even as a "bud," and the realm of girlhood is as far as possible removed from the desire to attract attention to physical charms, unless it be a pretty girlish face.

Big, full sleeves will prevail in most of the graduate costumes, and they will in most cases end at the elbow, below which they will be tight-fitting, or the arm left bare. The dress shown at the left of the picture is made of thin muslin, with a shirred yoke, and trimming of valenciennes lace and ribbon, which latter may be white or some light shade of color as desired. The other dress is of cream organdie, with trimming of lace and blue or pink satin ribbon.

Our second illustration shows a simple and very pretty costume for an older girl. The material is of cream dimity, with a skirt of the fashionable seven-gored style. The foundation skirt is of cream satin. The dimity is fulled in the front, and back from the neck to the waist. The big, full sleeves, which reach to the elbow, are

held out by an interlining of paper muslin. The collar is of satin, and is outlined with flowers, which are cut from the odds and ends of lace that trim the sleeves and bodice, and are felled neatly down to the satin. The belt is of satin the same as the collar.

It may be added that these gowns are equally appropriate for a girl's wear during summer for any festive occasion, or for evening wear when in the mountains or at the seaside. The light materials make a dress that is at once cheap and pretty. The lovely organdies that now pile the counters of the shops offer a great variety for the selection of a girl's dress. The sprigged and flowered organdies are not appropriate for graduation, but the plain cream or white are just the thing, and will be much used.

Old Mahogany Tables. The mahogany card tables of our grandmothers are much esteemed these days as a bit of parlor furnishing. The folded top, having been protected from any but occasional use, is generally a fine piece of wood, and when the table is stood against the wall with one-half of the top supported by the polished background is very effective for a little bright brio-a-brac. It is a suggestion if a fine polish is wanted, to send the table to a coffin or piano warehouse for the process used in the work at either of these manufactures. A caution to purchasers of the tables, too, in some old New England farmhouse or at an antique shop is to keep on looking until one is found with a graceful base, there being a decided choice in the supports. A straight pedestal base is not so graceful as the curved scroll or widened harp design, and it is the latter that should be found if possible.

FASHIONS IN TEARS.

Strange as It May Seem, There Are Modes Even In Weeping.

Fashions change even in spiritual matters, and it has been decreed that it is no longer a subject of pathetic interest for women to weep. Those tender lines of Kingsley, For men must work And women must weep, And there's little to do, But many to keep Though the harbor bar be moaning, are still true enough when applied to the men who go down to the sea in ships and to the wives, daughters and sweethearts who wait and watch for them. But to the women in town and country the edict has gone forth, "Weep no more." The day has passed when the big, sad eyes, ready to send forth a flood of tears on the slightest provocation, can prove an effective weapon against refractory man. He knows too much about it. It is useful to a woman as a relief to her nervous system - any physician can tell her that it has its physiological benefits - but masculinity cannot be subdued by these moist methods. When she begins to show the old-fashioned signs of distress, man cruelly interposes: "Now, don't cry. It makes your nose red and your eyes ugly. It won't change me." Or if he is especially coarse he will shout: "For heaven's sake, stop that crying game unless you want to get rid of me! I won't stand it."

A woman enjoys crying. The wise man is aware of this and is never heartless enough to attempt stopping a source of pleasure. But it is one more reason why he is not affected by her tears. If they arise from bodily pain or intense mental suffering, he is all sympathy, but the hysterical overflow that can be produced on an instant's notice, that seems to be on tap - because her dress doesn't fit in one particular or she lacks a dime to complete one especial purchase - does not now excite his interest.

When a man cries, it is from the diaphragm, and the sobs give him actual physical pain. His sex fellows know this and can sympathize with him. But women cry from the chest or throat without the slightest effort, and men know that too. The old German proverb, "Nothing dries sooner than a tear," must have been written by a man who had had experience with the wives of weeping women. There is a quaint old English poem that gives a list of the various evil spirits that infest this world and inflict injury upon more or less undeserving mortals, and concludes with the startling statement that "a weeping woman with two black eyes is the wickedest devil of them all."

The principal point for the consideration of woman is that when she must have her "good, comfortable cry" she should take her consolation privately. When not in the presence of unsympathizing man, she may even forget to cry, and if she remembers there is a possibility that she will forget the cause of her lachrymose desires, and smiles may soon chase away the tears as they did in childish years. If the sex has reformed in this respect, man need not claim the credit. It is a busy, bustling age, in the cities at least, and there women have learned to be wise, earnest and strong, as factors in the daily life of a world that demands the best efforts from them. They are responding bravely and intelligently, and there is no time left for crying. - Philadelphia Times.

ARTISTIC DINNER GIVING.

The Ideal Dinner Has a Simple Menu and a Perfect Service.

The ideal dinner company is never large. Six has been said to be the magic number, but eight and even ten are perfectly manageable, both in the matter of smooth service and in the higher harmonies. Do not confine your choice to intimate friends, but add to their pleasure and your own the fresh experience of meeting new spirits, whose congeniality you have divined. A really artistic dinner, it is the writer's conviction, should never exceed four courses, including the coffee. The scheme of the dinner is that each dish shall be perfect, worthy of the palate and of the appetite, enjoyed to the full for its merits, and not trifled with and instantly forgotten. The second point in importance is that a dish should be as attractive in appearance as it is perfect in flavor, that it should be placed upon the table as an added enjoyment and hospitably served by host or hostess. The third point, also of importance, is that a dinner should be seasonable - not an anticipation of seasons - for every chosen article should be at its very best. A lean, half-ripened January tomato, which has ill borne its travels, is but a forlorn apology for the plump and luscious summer product - certainly not fitted for an "artistic" appearance. - Ella Morris Kretschmar in Woman's Home Companion.

English Women Smokers. A New York society woman who has a long line of social connections in England said in discussing the smoking habit among women over there, about which so much has been printed lately: "English women whom I have received in my home - and I receive many - almost without exception smoke. It is not a giggling matter with us, as it still is with our women, to some extent. It is a matter of course." And the cigarette habit is growing fast in feminine circles here. If you don't believe it, inquire in the stores where "specialty" made for women" articles are sold. Smokers' outfits for all sorts and conditions of womanhood are now on sale, most of the high priced ones being imported from dear old London. - New York Letter.

Unsalable. Weaver - Poetry is something that is born in one. It cannot be acquired. The making of poetry is a gift. Weaver - So is the disposing of it, so far as I have had any experience. - Boston Transcript.

THE PHILIPPINES.

A New Problem Demanding Our Attention.

What Will the United States do With Her Eastern Possessions - New Conditions Require a Revision of Our Policy.

When the war with Spain broke out all eyes were directed toward Cuba. We took up arms in order to relieve the Island of Cuba from intolerable misrule and its inhabitants from famine. Very little thought was given to the Philippines; and yet such is the irony of fate that the question of the disposal of the Philippines, which was scarcely taken into account as a possible factor in the problems of the war, may be the first to demand consideration. The question is an extremely difficult one, and it is complicated by an array of perplexing side issues. All the arguments that have been urged against the annexation of Hawaii, Cuba or other transmarine territory apply with redoubled force against the acquisition of the Philippines. We would be obliged to amend our constitution in order to provide methods of civil government for alien dependencies whose inhabitants are unfitted for incorporation into our community of self-governing freemen. We would do violence to a fundamental principle of our national policy if we should extend our dominion beyond the seas which surround our continental heritage. We would cut adrift from that doctrine by which we announced our intention to neither intermeddle in the affairs of the Old World nor permit any intrusion by the nations of Europe into the affairs of the Western Hemisphere.

All of these arguments, however, have been materially weakened by the logic of events. For better or for worse, we have intruded into the political system of the Far East, with which we have hitherto had none but diplomatic and commercial relations. If the inhabitants of the Philippines were a race capable of self-government we might conscientiously leave them to their own devices. If the islands were altogether a wilderness, and peopled only by savages, we might withdraw from all responsibility for their future destiny. Neither of these suppositions, however, are true. The total trade of the Philippines, exports and imports, amounts to about \$40,000,000 a year. There are commercial and other interests centered at Manila and other Philippine ports which require protection by a responsible government, and the nations whose merchants have important trading and industrial establishments on the islands might justly demand that we should assume a stewardship in lieu of that of Spain, which we have destroyed. By the force of circumstances we have thus become, and will be obliged to remain - at least temporarily - an Asiatic Power.

Should we deem the duties thus imposed upon us too onerous, or of a character that we have no aptitude to perform, it might, perhaps, be difficult to find a power, upon whose continued friendship we could rely, that would be willing to assume our burden. There are two governments, those of Japan and Great Britain, whose attachment to the principles of free trade and whose identity of interests in the far east with our own would make a transfer to them of the Philippines an act of wise policy. A transfer to Japan would be peculiarly fitting - the Philippines being geographically a part of that Island Empire - and by such devolution of power we should recognize the principle of "Asia for the Asians," which would be kindred in spirit to our own declaration of "America for Americans." In view of the strong and possibly forcible opposition which would be made by a Franco-Russo-German combination to a transfer of the Philippines, either to England or to Japan, perhaps neither of those powers would be disposed to accept the islands at the risk of inviting European intervention.

There are other considerations involved in the settlement of this question, however, which might have a controlling influence upon our decision. We have become the most productive industrial nation in the world; and because of the cheapness and superior quality of our manufactured and agricultural products the time is near at hand when our foreign commerce will exceed that of any other people. We shall be obliged to afford protection to our shipping on every sea and to our merchants in every region of the earth. To this end our navy will have to be second to none - and, perhaps, superior to that of several malevolent rivals in sea power. We shall need repair depots and coaling stations conveniently located as bases for naval operations when war shall have closed neutral ports to our ships. If one of the vessels of Commodore Dewey's squadron had been seriously crippled in the fight at Manila it must necessarily have been abandoned. Averse as we may be to territorial acquisitions beyond the sea, the retention of some part of the Philippine group for the uses and purposes indicated may become inevitable.

All suggestions in reference to the

future of the Philippine must be regarded, however, as having been made tentatively and with many reservations. We should meet problems as they arise - not anticipate them. It is fairly clear, nevertheless, that our war in aid of Cuba has assumed dimensions undreamed of by those who forced the country into the conflict. Our international political relations have become as complicated as are those of Great Britain. Willy nilly we have entered upon our career as a world power. - Record.

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A Plan to Curb Garman. Democrats Who Want to Run a Campaign on State Issues.

Despite the action of the radical Gormanites in forcing the free silver issue at the recent meeting of the Democratic State Committee, it is manifest that a large number of more conservative Democrats who supported Bryan for President have not given up the idea of prevailing upon the Democratic State convention to run the gubernatorial campaign upon State issues. Representative free silver Democrats of the type of ex-Judge Krebs, of Clearfield; P. Gray Meek, of Centre; James A. Stranahan, of Mercer; George A. Jenks, of Jefferson, and Chauncey F. Black, of York, have been giving the subject very careful consideration, and they are emphatically opposed to the Garman idea.

A number of leading Democrats have agreed to advocate a platform which will set forth that in the choice of the State officers to be elected next fall no national issues are at stake. They ask that attention be directed to abuses of power by public officials, extravagance in the management of State departments, the creation of unnecessary official places, which the party shall be pledged to abolish, as well as to check by veto all appropriations for junketing trips, and they propose planks for the platform calling for a simplified ballot law that shall at the same time give secrecy and protection to the voter and check corruption of electors and others urging the enactment of legislation prohibiting the formation of trusts and monopolies which prevent free competition in trade.

The men in the movement propose that the State convention shall express the belief that its delegates recognize the right of the delegates to the national convention to declare the principles and define the policies of the party on national issues, and to freely accept these declarations as binding upon State and local organizations until changed by a subsequent national convention. They hold that members of the party have the right to settle for themselves the issues to be raised in the election of members of Congress in the several districts, but contend that no national policies are at stake in the choice of a Governor at the coming election. - Ex.

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War Benefits Some People. The war in which we are now engaged is not an unmixt evil, but, on the contrary, for some people it is a beneficial occurrence. The needs of the government have already made necessary the purchase for the military establishment of 450,000 yards of woolen goods. Bids have also been called for the supplying of 1,400,000 yards of kerseys and flannels and for 75,000 blankets of five pounds each. The consequences of this war among others, will be the relieving of the dullness that had prevailed in the woolen manufacturing business, because the stocks that were on hand will be sold off. It will also allow of fresh manufacturing in that line, and the wool that had been bought and stored away in anticipation of tariff changes will now be manufactured into woolen goods.

The war certainly must have an improving effect on the business mentioned. The wool markets, if peace prevailed, would be weak on account of large supplies of material and the nearness of another clip, but warfare will have a steadying effect.

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