

Gossip for the Fair Sex.

Items of Interest on Feminine Topics.

Colored Veils—Women Forging Ahead—A Daring Mountain Climber—Reds Being Pushed.

COLORED VEILS.

When you once become accustomed to the colored tulle face veiling it must be confessed to be extremely becoming to a young face.

WOMEN FORGING AHEAD.

Dr. Katherine Berry Richardson now occupies the chair of Visceral and Historical Anatomy in the Medical College of Kansas City, Mo., and the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan has modified the laws of that institution so as to allow women to be professors.

A DARING MOUNTAIN CLIMBER.

Miss Tomasson, the English traveler, while staying in the Dolomites, in June, ascended four virgin peaks, one of them being the Cima delle Capre, 2,863 metres.

REDS BEING PUSHED.

The manufacturers are "pushing" (to use the trade term) reds for the coming winter, to take the place of heliotrope, which is relegated to the background.

THE BANGLE HAS REAPPEARED.

One of the features of this year's fashion in jewelry is that the bangle has reappeared. But the new bangle is very different from the old.

AUTUMN GOWN.

Here is the description of a newly imported gown which would be charming for autumn: The material is a moss-green taffeta. The skirt has ten small tucks around the bottom and eight more half-way between the waist and hem.

Another recently made gown of great "chie" is of black grenadine made up over black taffeta, with a sort of overvestment of white guipure, made over orange-colored silk, which is open in front, both on the bodice and on the skirt.

LIVE BY QUEER WORK.

GAINING A LIVELIHOOD IN ORIGINAL WAYS.

Odd Vocation of Some Chicagoans—The Strangest is That Developed by a Woman "Funeral Inspector"—A College Boy's Novel Business—A Professional "Cheerer."

Some Chicago people earn their living in queer ways, says the Times-Herald. There is a man in the city who makes a good income monthly by turning out especially artistic sofa pillows.

Now are Chicago women less enterprising than the men in the way of doing odd work. One south side woman writes sermons for a living, another furnishes "original" papers to be read before clubs and bright rhymes for menu cards and quotation parties.

But the oddest occupation unearthed yet is followed and was invented by a woman. It is that of a sort of funeral inspector and assistant. When her services are required she goes to the house of mourning, makes the shroud when desired to do so, gives orders for flowers, arranges them, takes messages to the friends and relatives of the household, bids people to the services, buys or hires the mourning garments, alters them if necessary, arranges the rooms for the funeral, talks matters over with the minister and the undertaker, sees that the wishes of the family are carried out, and, in a word, stands between the afflicted people and the world at large in a thousand ways and performs a thousand small but highly appreciated services.

CHILD NURSES SHOULD BE TRAINED.

It would be a good thing if among the many training schools for servants that are talked of or are already existing there shall be added some for the training of child nurses, says a writer in the Chicago Tribune.

FASHION NOTES.

Lace aprons are to be revived. Round-cornered cuffs are bound to be fashionable.

Silk and chiffon blouses are much worn this season. Linen collars and cuffs are used with all sorts of waists, the turn-over effects having first choice.

Ribbon of graduated widths put on straight around the skirt is a fashionable trimming, while very narrow ribbon is applied in intricate patterns.

Straws of the most brilliant hues are very popular—purple, green, pink and yellow—and often a combination of two or more colors are used on one hat.

It is being announced that all garments for the fall trade are being modelled for figures wearing the new shaped corset. This corset has a low bust, and the increase of the size just above and below the waist makes the latter appear smaller than it really is.

Narrow velvet ribbon is used on everything. An imported cape of old rose silk has rows of black velvet ribbon running down it at intervals of about an inch. Around the shoulders the silk is plaited in so thickly that at the neck nothing is visible except the ribbon.

The new collars will be very heavy. The cravat will be an inch and an eighth to an inch and five-eighths four-in-hand. This is a very narrow four-in-hand and will therefore reveal a great deal of the shirt.

bread and butter by means of a kind of leather work never done in America except by herself. It is a German method, a combination of repousse work, hammering and photography.

On the west side is a man who carts bodies from the morgue to the medical colleges for a living, and Chicago has the only woman in America to make colored medical drawings within her gates.

And so it goes on; the list of queer avocations followed in Chicago might well be indefinitely extended, for the people who are forced to think out new ways to earn a livelihood are exceedingly numerous.

SPINNING SILK FROM SPIDERS.

Science Robs the Wily Insect of Its Delicate Web.

The prize of \$5,000, offered by the Manufacturers' Union of England to the inventor of any perfect process for utilizing the web of a common spider, has been awarded to M. Cachot, an eminent chemist of France.

The spider, unlike the silkworm, is wild and warlike. Its short mandibles are armed with fangs through which a deadly poison flows. It is a gourmand, demanding large supplies of animal food and plenty of water. It is the hardest of all insects to manage. Despite all, these drawbacks science has conquered the little fiend and compelled it to pay tribute to genius.

M. Cachot recently invited a company of manufacturers to inspect the workings of his process. They were ushered into a damp, dimly lighted room, inhabited by hundreds of large Madagascar spiders clinging to the side walls and upon the rafters. The only food required by these curious creatures is a diet of insects, house flies and small living things of all sorts. They catch the victim, and, while trying to imprison their prey, send out their most valuable webbing. It is very strong, and permits of being turned off readily.

In the centre of the room stands a frame filled with bobbins worked by a dynamo. The spider is allowed one or two turns around the fly and then the web issuing from its abdomen is caught by a delicate hook, fastened to the bobbin and wound off as fast as the spider produces it. One spider will spin in a few seconds a sufficient web to fill a bobbin as large as a peanut. As long as it is generously fed it will continue to create its thread until it dies. The color of the web is a pale gray, and takes all dyes readily.

For experimental purposes, a little of the spider web was woven into a cloth. It yielded a fabric very silky in touch and as fine as the best of Oriental products. It is possible that the wonderfully delicate silks of the ancients were of spider web, as with all of the increased facilities and knowledge of modern times, they have never been duplicated. The robes that Cleopatra boasted she could draw through an earring were probably made of this finest of all known materials. The start has been made. The development will be watched with interest.—Textile American.

Coal Dust a Dangerous Element.

An instance of the ignition of coal dust by the sun's rays is reported in the Gluckauf, a German authority. It appears that the surface works of the Maybach colliery, near Friedrichsthal, in the Saar district, are chiefly of iron; and on certain girders the floating dust, due to the tipping of coal on to the jiggings screens, becomes, in course of time, deposited in a layer more than an inch thick. On a workman burning his hand, while repairing a pipe running through the corrugated iron forming one of the south walls, the official inquiry showed that the layer of coal dust had been formed along the whole length of the wall, and although the dust contained a proportion of pulverized rock, the metal plates heated by the sun had ignited it, the layer of white ash on the top proving that it had burned for a considerable period. The circumstances afford fresh proof of the ease with which coal dust may be brought to ignition, also a possible explanation of fires at similar surface works.—Boston Transcript.

From Sheep to Clothes.

An interesting experiment has just taken place at Selkirk, Scotland, when a suit of clothes was produced from raw material in under eight hours. Two sheep were shorn in the morning, the wool was scoured, dyed, carded and spun in one establishment in two hours and twenty minutes; the warping, wetting, milling and finishing occupied three hours and fifteen minutes at another while the making up took two hours and twenty minutes, and the suit was worn on the afternoon of the day on which the wool was clipped. A similar experiment was made some six years ago at Ettrick Mills, when the wool was spun on the old hand-jennies and woven on hand looms. At that time jacket and vest were completed in sixteen hours, and in three days in was deemed a remarkable performance.—Boston Transcript.

Daring Operation.

The correspondent sent to his paper a news despatch in which was this statement: "George Onsley, colored, mounted on a pack mule."

The telegraph operator took it this way: "Gorgeously colored moutain peaks, mile after mile."—Boston Globe.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

New Jersey spent \$5,337,557.42 for educational purposes last year—about \$2 for each man, woman and child in the State. Of the amount \$3,029,777.91 was for the salaries of the teachers.

According to a writer in The Independent, only four of the States of the Union use officially the term Commonwealth, these being Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Kentucky.

That army chaplaincies continue to be very alluring to the clerical mind is indicated by the fact that nearly three hundred ministers applied to the Federal Government for appointment to a single vacancy that recently occurred.

In India hoarding is the universal method of providing for the future, and one authority says that the stores of the natives in the shape of coin and ornaments amount to as much as \$1,250,000,000.

Seattle, in the new State of Washington, is seeing its great opportunity in the excitement over the Klondike gold discoveries, and is availing itself of it. Enthusiastic citizens predict a population of a hundred thousand for the town before the close of 1898.

A Californian with a wooden leg has started for the Alaska gold fields, and proposes to tramp over the Chilkoot Pass alone. Well, he is fifty per cent better off than many who will make the trip, opines the Chicago Times-Herald. He has only one foot to freeze.

In the United States the yield of cotton is worth about 400 millions dollars, hay 430, dairy products 250, poultry and eggs 560, and we export more or less of everything but the latter. We eat all our eggs and chickens at home, and then call for more from abroad.

The Galveston News notes as a singular fact in view of its State's immense herds of cattle, that Texas imports from other States much of the butter it uses. Some of its citizens are now laboring to procure the establishment of creameries and cheese factories there.

Every day we find paper being used for new purposes. Now jackets are made of it to support those weak spines that hitherto have been held in position by heavy plaster jackets. In view of the contrast in weight we can easily believe the claims of its inventor that "it is the thinnest, lightest and strongest spinal support ever invented."

A sinister prediction comes from Vienna. Professor Falb announces that on November 13, 1899, a comet will strike the earth. The calculations of the meteorologist are not yet sufficient to inform the world whether the violence of the shock will reduce the planet to dust, or whether it will be enveloped in an atmosphere of poisonous gas, which will kill all living beings.

In Shelbyville, Ind., the other day, a stonemason who called to serve a wife upon a widow was scalded with a kettleful of hot water, and ran away so rapidly that he entirely forgot that he had suffered for twenty years with chronic rheumatism which would scarcely permit him to walk. The hot water cure seems to be effective, but it may be a little too severe for the average sufferer.

Hans Wiseman, a famous Nebraska pioneer, discounts the ordinary dime novel hero, for he is said to have killed in the course of his life 500 or more Indians. He now lives near Harrington, Neb., and is about 80 years old, but he is still hale and hearty. About thirty-five years ago, when Wiseman was serving in the army, the Indians murdered his five children, and for years no red man dared come within range of Wiseman's rifle.

The Atlanta Constitution is responsible for the statement that duelling became a dead letter in Georgia because the farmers of the State suffered so much that they banded together against it and stamped it out. Their barn doors and window shutters were seriously wounded by the duellists, who never would pay for repairs, and many fine Georgia cows were slain by the stray shots of the dangerous combatants. The real sufferers could stand it no longer and they kicked.

Baltimore's Board of Health has issued orders that will stop the mad-dog craze. It commands the police to apply a ligature above the bite and "then try to suck the poison from the wound with the mouth, care being taken, of course, that your own lips are not chapped or cut." This, declares the New York Press, will put an end effectively to the mania peculiar to policeman to shoot every dog as mad which may be tortured into biting somebody.

The wives of three well-known citizens of Fort Scott, Kan.—for the first time in the history of the State—have been drawn to serve upon the jury. Unless the court excuses them, they will be obliged to deliberate with the other talsmen regarding testimony which may not be pleasant for them to hear. Under the law of Kansas, all taxpayers who are electors are eligible for jury service. The women there vote in municipal elections. Jury service is certainly not one of the most desirable results of the agitation for women's rights.

Says the San Francisco Chronicle: Massachusetts people who wish to see birds protected are much exercised over the failure of the authorities to enforce the recent law making it an offense to use certain kinds of feathers for millinery purposes. If the Police Commissioners do their duty, then no

woman will dare to go out with feathers of any kind in her hat, unless it be the plumage of ducks or geese; nor will any dealer consent to sell birds or feathers. The enforcement of the measure will probably result in some humorous incidents in court, for the experts are divided in regard to the legality of the statute.

In the opinion of the Boston Traveller there is coming a day when the canned fruit industry will cease to be an enormous moneymaking enterprise, and the few who are now beginning to see the future of a business dealing with dried fruits will be multimillionaires. And the best of it will be that the profit of it will not be wholly with the dealers. Dried fruit sells at about half the price that a canned fruit commands, and it will go five times farther. When such a reason will not appeal to a housekeeper the fact that it is superior to canned goods on account of the modern processes will make some impression. In California they have learned to prepare prunes so well that large quantities are shipped to France, the home of the prune, while California raisins have practically driven foreign raisins out of the market, and thousands of pounds of apricots and pears go to Europe.

A remarkable feature of Queen Victoria's reign is the great number of wars, "little and big," that have marked its progress. Scarcely a twelve-month has passed without finding a war in some part of the world. Here is an interesting list of the principal campaigns: Afghan war, 1838-40; first Chinese war, 1841; Sikh war, 1845-6; Kaffir war, 1856; second war with China, second Afghan war, 1849; second Sikh war, 1848-49; Burmese war, 1850; second Kaffir war, 1851-52; second Burmese war, 1852-53; Crimea, 1854; third war with China, 1856-58; Indian mutiny, 1857; Maori war, 1860-61; more wars with China, 1860 and 1862; second Maori war, 1863-66; Ashantee war, 1864; war in Bootan, 1864; Abyssinian war, 1867-68; war with Hazotees, 1868; third Maori war, 1868-69; war with Looshasis, 1871; Zulul war, 1878-79; third Afghan war, 1878-80; war in Basuto land, 1879-81; Transvaal war, 1879-81; Egyptian war, 1882; Zanzibar, 1890; Matabele wars, 1894 and 1896; Chitral campaign, 1896; third Ashantee campaign, 1896; second Soudan campaign, 1896.

"There is a strong sentiment in our part of the State for a division of California so as to give Southern California separate Statehood," said J. N. Hazard, of Los Angeles, Cal., recently. "This desire arises from no friction or jealousies between the two ends of the Commonwealth, and least of all is it based on any scheme to give the politicians additional spoils from the public crib. It isn't political greed or the outgrowth of ill-feeling, but arises purely from economic necessities. In the southern part we feel the need of a State government of our own. We have in reality but little in common with the northern end. Our interests are quite as distinct from that section as they are from Oregon, and we are financially and industrially as independent as Oregon. We have also a new population that is distinct from the population of Northern California as it is from New York. For these and other reasons we aspire to Statehood. There is plenty of territory for two prosperous and powerful States, and I think the division is certain to come about."

Typewriting in Chinese.

Dr. Sheffield, a missionary at Tung Chow, has invented a Chinese typewriter machine, which possesses many remarkable qualifications. He made the model himself, but sent the parts to a factory in Connecticut, where they were made in metal and put together. The instrument is a great success, and will relieve both the foreigners and the native Chinese from the necessity of using a paint brush and a pot of ink in conducting the correspondence. The characters, about 4,000 in number, are on the edges of wheels about one foot in diameter. It requires twenty to thirty wheels to carry all the letters; and the operator must strike two keys to make an impression. The first key turns the wheel and the second stops it at the letter wanted, which is brought down upon the paper by an ingenious device. The machine is very complicated, but Dr. Sheffield expects to make many improvements in the way of simplicity. The difficulty of his task and the wonder of his invention may be recognized when it is known that there are 18,000 characters in the Chinese language, each one of them representing a distinct word. There are between 4,000 and 5,000 in common use, which he has selected and placed upon his typewriter. The newspaper vocabulary of China involves fully that number of characters.

The Paris Catacombs.

The subterranean galleries between the Jardin des Plantes, which constitute the Paris catacombs, are now being utilized. They have been converted into a species of laboratory and aquarium. A number of them have been fitted with reservoirs and glass tanks, while in others the niches that once contained human bodies have been converted into cages where scientists are able to study the effect of total and partial darkness upon animal life.

Lighting Liberated a Canary Bird.

Lighting sometimes plays queer freaks, as when it melted the wire from which hung a Bewick canary's cage, the cage falling to the floor and liberating the bird, which was not hurt a bit.—Lewiston Evening Journal.