

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX.

NEWS OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMININE TOPICS.

Avoid a Choppy Walk—The Style in Footwear—Mrs. McKinley's Chief Recreation—The Bride and Groom—Some Women's Sensible Fads—Etc., Etc.

Avoid a Choppy Walk.

In walking endeavor to take a long, graceful, gliding step rather than the short, choppy motion which one so often sees.

Walking on the toes gives a mincing, dancing school master gait. Let the weight fall on the balls of the feet, turn the toes out a trifle and transfer the weight of the body from one foot to the other as each step is taken.

Avoid balancing the body by throwing the hips alternately out and in. This produces a walk that is neither graceful nor refined, and no woman should care to imitate it.

The Style in Footwear.

High-heeled shoes and slippers are the vogue, and the low, broad-toed boot is only used for walking. The medium round toe is considered the most elegant and all heels are at least a half to a quarter inch higher than they were last season. Comfortable the broad effects certainly are, but never pretty; and a woman with her feet daintily clad is certainly a refreshing sight. The most fastidious women have house slippers built to match their house gowns, embroidered and embellished with jeweled buckles. Patent leather slippers with high tongue pieces, with large old silver or rhine-stone buckles, are very smart. Fancy stockings are almost universally worn with slippers. Black stockings are inserted with lace on the insteps or embroidered with pin dots in white or colors. Striped stockings are also much in vogue, and now and then a pair is seen plaided off with fine lines.

Mrs. McKinley's Chief Recreation.

Mrs. McKinley drives every morning from ten to eleven o'clock. Almost invariably some friend accompanies her. Invitations for these little morning tours are a valued attention in Washington, although as a rule the wives of the Cabinet officers are those most favored. Mrs. McKinley usually drives in a closed carriage, with a footman and driver on the box. Frequently she does her shopping during the outing, the goods being brought to the carriage for inspection. The President's hour for driving is from half-past four to half past five in the afternoon. Mrs. McKinley often accompanies him when the weather is pleasant. Otherwise some senator, congressman or special friend is likely to be invited to join the Chief Executive for a spin around the city. Unless there should be some very excellent reason for making an exception, the President himself handles the reins.—Woman's Home Companion.

The Bride and Groom.

"The wedding ring completes the circle, typical as is the ring itself of the perpetuity of the compact," writes Mrs. Burton Kingsland, in the Ladies' Home Journal. "Inside the ring—always a plain gold one—are engraved the initials of bride and bridegroom, and the date of the marriage. It is placed on the third finger of the left hand because of the fanciful conceit that from that finger a nerve goes straight to the heart.

"Some say that the word 'obey' in the marriage service is an anachronism and holds only those who choose to be bound, but American women do not often feel their chains. In some provinces of Russia the bride's father gives her a little cut with a whip, which instrument of correction he then presents to the groom for future emergencies.

"The kiss, formerly given by the young husband to his bride after the words, 'I pronounce you man and wife'—for which so many rehearsals were necessary—has gone out of fashion.

"It is a time-honored observance of wedding etiquette that the bride shall not be seen by the bridegroom on the fateful day until she appears coming up the aisle to meet him. Hence the custom of the bridegroom's waiting at the altar. The bridal procession is for him—not a pageant for the guests."

Some Women's Sensible Fads.

Spoon crazes and monogram fan epiphanies have been succeeded by a rational and useful mania, and that is that each one has her own special hobby, the more useful and practical the better. One person has chosen plates for her speciality, and plates of all sizes and shapes will soon adorn her rooms. Each place on her travels will be remembered by a plate, while all her friends and relatives have been notified that plates will be most acceptable for birthday gifts. Another lady has the unique idea of collecting a set of anniversary cups and saucers. Whenever her wedding day rolls around she adds a cup and saucer. One fair maiden a bride-to-be, is making a collection of fine towels, and they are beautiful, all embroidered with the colors of the rooms they are to be used in—a dozen in red, a dozen in blue, and so on.

Cut glass makes a charming collection, and it is surprising how quickly the pieces accumulate. A lady whose home is exquisitely dainty confessed she saved her dimes most religiously and then waited for a bargain in what she was wanting. A collection of dainty "mouchoirs" is the pride of every girl's heart, and "handkerchiefs"

parties are quite the thing. Each girl brings her work; it is such a fine opportunity to show off one's dainty thimble and gorgeous chatelaine with its scissors and other work box attachments. Sewing is rapidly coming to the front as a fine art, and talking its long vacant place in the accomplishments of the nineteenth century maidens.

An apron craze is also evident, from the sheer gauzy affairs to big practical colored aprons for kitchen use. A collection of aprons is a most acceptable gift to a young housekeeper.

A very intellectual girl regards books as her fad. Each one is duly inscribed and she points proudly to a case filled with them, each one a souvenir of some city, time or memorable occasion. Still another collection is being made of Chinese and Japanese articles of all descriptions. This is a most interesting study and the case is filled with everything from a fine antique vase to a hideous Chinese idol.

Photographs make a charming fad, and a collection shown of Chicago views is a wonderful revelation of how much natural beauty there is here if one only looks for it.

Baby's Outfit Complete.

"The baby basket should be in readiness before the little one's arrival," says Mrs. Philipp C. Kilborn in regard to "baby's outfit." "and should contain the following articles: A soft sponge for washing the body, and another small one to be used for the eyes and nothing else; a small roll of soft linen cloth and some old napkins to dry the baby, a waterproof bathing apron, castile soap in a little box, carbolyzed vaseline, talcum powder and a puff, the little brush and fine comb, safety pins of all sizes, scissors, absorbent cotton and a complete suit of clothes.

"Other things which are necessary are lap pads, three or four, made perhaps of heavy Turkish toweling, or tufted pads of cotton and cheesecloth. There should be three or four little shawls, about a yard square, of flannel or double faced elderdown to wrap the baby in at bathing times or when the room is a little cooler than usual.

"For the first few months the baby will probably wear flannel bands, which are simply an unhemmed strip of flannel five by twenty inches long. These may be replaced a little later with the knitted bands with shoulder straps. Six or eight of the first mentioned bands would be sufficient.

"The little shirts may be of cotton and wool, costing about forty cents, or all wool, a trifle more expensive; silk and wool, costing about \$1, or they may be of silk, in which case they will cost \$1.50 or more. Three shirts is the smallest number one could get along with.

"Three or four pinning blankets, or barrow coats, are necessary. These are best made to hang from the shoulder, with three small buttons and loops to close the opening in front. Or they may be made with no opening in front and fasten only on the shoulders. The hems are feather stitched, and the neck and arm sizes are scalloped.

"There should be six or eight plain little slips, made of soft nainsook, dimity, lawn or similar materials. These are about thirty inches long. A narrow lace edge at neck and wrist is a dainty trimming, and a ribbon run through beading will make the neck and wrist bands fit. When the baby is a few months old and is able to be dressed a little less simply, there should be two or three embroidered flannel petticoats, made with waistbands, and the same number of muslin skirts."—New York Tribune.

Fashion Notes.

Pale shades of gray and beige color are the tints in dress gowns and are quite as much worn as white.

Meteorite crepe de chine, spotted with chenille, like flowers in white, are one of the novelties of the season.

The newest girdles have a deep, graduated fringe of silk, steel beads or jet falling from the lower edge.

Parisian designers and atteliers are making attempts to revive Empire styles on both day and evening gowns.

Wide bands of white satin covered with very tiny gold beads trim an imported dinner gown of tan "satin cloth."

Imitation diamond buckles are a very conspicuous feature of dress trimmings, and other pretty buckles are of enameled flowers.

Russian lace in heavy quality and fine Venetian laces are very much employed for trimming handsome cloth gowns in the pastel colors.

It is not only because pink coral is fashionable that it is attractive in rings. Fine pieces have a beautiful color, and with diamonds on either side of them make charming rings.

White and tinted chiffon in the form of various kinds of flowers, some with jeweled centres, will be used on dress hats and bonnets next season.

A fashionable and becoming garniture is black velvet ribbon run through the meshes of lace waist or boleros, with tiny buckles of French brilliants of fine cut steel fastened where the strands of velvet appear.

Charming half-mourning hats are built entirely of mousseline de soie, plaited, tucked or shirred. By half-mourning is meant simple black costumes, without crapes. Black and white is not, as is supposed by many, strictly speaking, half-mourning.

A pretty gown has a number of narrow box plaits close together around the upper part of the skirt and running down four or five inches from the waist, only a narrow space in front being plain. The box plaits which form

the backs of so many skirts are double, triple, and quadruple.

Among the new trimmings is a silk netting about four inches wide, which has one scalloped edge finished with a narrow silk fringe, and midway between this and the upper edge is another row of the same fringe following the same outline. This comes in colors as well as black.

Dainty berthas, vandyke collarettes, Marie Antoinette fichus bordered with one, two or three accordion-plaited frills of India mull, net or chiffon; little vandyke pelerines with long scarf ends diminishing to mere points are to be added to the simple afternoon gowns for the summer.

HUNTING PATAGONIAN OSTRICH.

How the Birds Are Dextrously Captured by Well Trained Indians.

The only town in the Straits of Magellan is Punta Arenas, a free port which was formerly a penal colony of Chile, and is now a very important market and supply point for the miners of Terra del Fuego, the ranchmen of Patagonia, and for passing steamers. It has a population of about 12,000 people, representing all the tribes and races of mankind, and it is not safe to ask a man where he came from or what his name was before his arrival. The country back of Punta Arenas is pretty well taken up with sheep ranches, and a large amount of wool is shipped to Europe from that place. Although the climate is severe, the sheep seem to thrive, and although uncultivated, the wool is of excellent quality. A large trade is done in furs and skins, and the prettiest things to be bought at Punta Arenas are ostrich robes made of the breasts of young birds. Seals are plenty along the rocks of the coast, but their fur is not so good as that of the northern Zones. In Patagonia ostriches are not bred as at the Cape of Good Hope, but run wild and are being gradually exterminated. The Indians chase them on horseback and catch them with a bolas—two heavy balls upon the end of a rope woven of leather strings. Grasping one ball in the hand they gallop after the ostrich, and whirling the other ball around their head like a coil of lasso, they let go when near enough to the bird, and the two balls, still revolving in the air, if skillfully directed, will wind around the legs of the ostrich and send him turning somersaults upon the sand. The Indians leap from their saddles, and if they are out of meat cut the throat of the bird and carry the carcass to camp; but if they have no need of food, they pull the long plumes from his tail and wings and let him go again to gather fresh plumage for the next season.

The bolas is handled very dextrously, and well-trained Indians are able to bring down an ostrich at a range of 200 or 300 yards. But it is not often necessary to fire at that distance. Horses accustomed to the chase can overtake a bird on an unobstructed plain, but the birds have the advantage of being artful dodgers, and carrying so much less weight, can turn and reverse quite suddenly. The usual mode of hunting is for a dozen or so of mounted Indians to surround a herd and charge upon them suddenly. In this way several are usually brought down before they scatter, and those that get away are pursued. As they dodge from one hunter they usually run across the range of another, and the first they know are tripped by the entangling bolas. People passing through the straits often stop over a steamer at Punta Arenas to enjoy an ostrich chase. They can secure trained horses and guides at moderate prices; but one who has never thrown the bolas will be amazed to find how difficult it is to do a trick that looks so easy.

Some years ago a young English lord who went down to exterminate the ostrich family came very near being lynched for manslaughter, as the first bolas he threw took one of the half-breed guides under the ear and laid him out as cold as a wedge. His lordship made suitable provision for the family of his victim, and the deceased man's partner immediately took up with the bereaved widow without formality of a wedding ceremony; the bride and groom omitted the usual period of mourning and appeared to be much gratified at the results of his lordship's visit. Of course the neighbors were scandalized, but the marriage was useful in diverting public attention from the accident, and the reckless scion of the nobility slipped away without explaining matters to the courts.

Abyssinians Seven Feet Tall.

In a paper read before the British Association Captain Welby described a journey in King Menelik's dominions. He stated that in the Abyssinians there lay a mint of pluck, energy and intelligence which was merely waiting for development. He noticed that those tribes who relied for food solely on milk and meat were of finer physique than those favored with cereals as well, while others dependent solely on fish and herbs were, as a rule, miserable individuals. He came across one tribe who held the notion that whenever there was thunder a white man was born, and hence it was thought that he must be able to bring rain with him. The captain exhibited photos of Abyssinian giants over seven feet in height.

Dainty Thimbles of Chinese Women.

Ladies of high class in China use the daintiest thimbles imaginable, some of them being carved from enormous pearls, ornamented with bands of fine gold, on which all manner of quaint and fantastic designs are engraved.

WAR NOT MORE MURDEROUS.

An Expert Boer Officer's Opinion of Modern Artillery.

Major Albrecht, commander of the Boer artillery was asked by the Deutsche Worte whether his experience confirmed Herr von Bloch's assertion with regard to the fearful effects of modern guns. In a letter dated Krootstad, Dec. 17, after the battle of Colenso, Albrecht says:

"What does Bloch say? A modern shell throws over a thousand pieces? What rubbish. I wish that Russia would send me some of those shells. What we have here won't even always obey us, but what the English have are bad beyond description. Out of a hundred shells not ten burst, and even these make more noise than they do damage. The day before yesterday about 25,000 English with over fifty guns stood against us 13,000 Boers. I can't give the accurate numbers, for I am today already on my way back to the Modder River, from where I came on the 12th with half of my artillery. But I can well say that we did not lose more than a hundred men, among them about three dozen killed. To about 1,000 English shells about twelve men were killed, and thirty or forty wounded, for the rest was done by rifles. Our Boer artillery was by no means as successful as I had anticipated before the war. Certainly our people shoot splendidly; but there is a great difference between a gun and a rifle. The English must have suffered heavy losses, but I know that I, with my artillery, had only a slight share in it, although we fired about four hundred shells. I leave it open whether our artillery disabled in all a hundred men. The riflemen disabled in ten minutes ten times more than our artillery did sometimes in ten hours. Artillery in defence does not seem to be destined to play a brilliant part, and as regards the attack, its use consists chiefly in intimidating the enemy, so that the attacking body can advance under its protection. The real decision lies in close fighting. The battles of Magersfontein and Colenso were decided within ten minutes. Within five minutes Buller had lost eleven guns.

"He who is least nervous is victorious—of this I am firmly convinced. Of course, in close fighting many more soldiers are now disabled than formerly, but the massacre is therefore of shorter duration. No body of troops marches straight on, as on the drill ground, against the enemy and lets itself be simply shot down. Not even the English do this. According to my conviction, was is nowadays not more murderous than formerly."

New Crimes and Penalties.

The theft of a lamp is larceny; it may be a Roman lamp or a Greek lamp, an oil lamp or an electric lamp. Whether it constitutes grand larceny or petit larceny will in certain states of the Union depend, not upon its age or newness, but upon its market value. On the other hand, there are a great number of modern crimes which could not have been committed in ancient days because the instruments for their perpetration did not exist. They are the outcome of modern civilization and they require new legislation.

The tapping of a telegraph wire is a modern form of highway robbery. In the old days the method was to waylay the courier on the road and to rob him of his purse or of his message. The formula of the modern highwayman is "Stand and deliver," but simply "deliver." And he may get a message from the lightning courier which may be worth more to him than a well-filled purse. But there is nothing to be gained by indiscriminate tapping. It is some special message or information that the thief is looking for, possibly for its effect on the stock market or on other business ventures; but the use of cipher codes renders the tapping of telegraph wires of little avail, even in time of war, unless the code as well as the message has been stolen. For the tapping of power of light lines the modern highwayman comes in out of the rain. He can do his business better indoors by attacking the electric meter, confusing its calculations, and thus getting more current than he pays for. Such, at least, seems to be the implication of recent statutes.

Now He Advertises.

"Once, when I was publishing a paper in Seattle, I convinced a man in the most emphatic way that it paid to advertise," said an old journalist. "He was a fairly prosperous merchant, and I had tried for a long time to get him to insert an advertisement in my paper. 'Oh, it's no use!' he would say. 'I never read the advertisements in a paper, and no one else does. I believe in advertising, but in a way that will force itself upon the public. Then it pays. But in a newspaper—pshaw! Everybody who reads a newspaper dodges the advertising pages as if they were poison.'

"Well," said I, "if I can convince you that people do read the advertising pages of my paper, will you advertise?" "Of course, I will. I advertise wherever I think it will do any good."

"The next day I had the following line stuck in the most obscure corner of the paper, between a couple of patent medicine advertisements: 'What is Cohen going to do about it?' 'The next day so many people annoyed him by asking what that line meant, that he begged me to explain the matter in my next issue. I promised to do so if he would let me write the explanation and stand by it. He agreed, and I wrote: 'He is going to advertise, of course.' And he did."—Collier's Weekly.

China Methods

Nowhere else are the principles of sound banking better known and understood or so universally practiced, while the word of a Chinese merchant is accepted the world around. The Chinese were the first to coin money, and they have long since solved the problem of bank note issues. Business conditions are stable and values settled. Their internal commerce is highly developed and all products that can stand their slow methods of transportation are well distributed.

Yet this, the greatest country in the world, is without any of the modern means of transportation and exchange. Its immense traffic is still handled in the most primitive manner—strings of camels that reach from the city gate to the horizon carry the tons of coal for the people's fuel. Pack mules from western provinces laden with salt fish and sea weeds. Heavy carts groan beneath casks of fragrant wines. Townboats are dragged along the canals and rivers by dozens of straining men. The traveling merchant may make his trip by cart, boat or sedan chair, if the weather be mild, but if it be winter, the mule litter will carry him over the rougher country, or he may skim along the waterways on a light sled propelled by human arms and legs.—Leslie's Weekly.

Goose Gooe Prophecies.

A correspondent sends us the following defense of the goose bone as a weather prophet: To show that the popularity of the goose breast-bone has some scientific foundation it should be remembered the goose lives to be 100 years old, unless it meets with some melancholy accident. Such an extended sphere of observation gives the goose an instinct for atmospheric probabilities. It becomes as familiar with indications of air currents and thermal conditions as a man with Prince Albert or Tuxedo coats, and this instinct it transmits from generation to generation; hence it anticipates climatic conditions and provides itself with nitrogenous food, which enriches the blood and colors the breast-bone.

Again, as the breast-bone of the goose is the bow of the ship that breaks the storm, its blood rushes to the part which most requires it, and this colors the breast-bone. Farmers who are in close contact with nature nearly all believe the prediction of the goose bone, and there is a legend that in General Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware, he was influenced by the views of local agriculturists as to the freezing of the river, and that those opinions were founded upon observation of the breast bone of a wild goose.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Tip About Using Stamps.

"Wait until I have washed off the postage stamp on this envelope, spoiled in the addressing," said a man. "It is not necessary to do that," said a lawyer. "You may take your scissors and cut out the adhesive stamp and stick it fast to your new envelope with mucilage, notwithstanding the adhering piece of the old envelope."

"It does not look nice, and may become detached in the mail, but the stamp is a genuine, unused, adhesive stamp it is not questioned. The Government, when it sells an adhesive stamp, undertakes for such consideration to transport and deliver to destination the letter to which it is affixed. The fact that it has a piece of an envelope to which it was formerly attached, but not used or deposited for mailing, does not relieve the Government to execute its part of the contract when the letter is deposited for mailing, the stamp being otherwise perfect."—Washington Star.

Birth Name of the Lobster.

"Did you ever see the name a lobster is born with?" asked a fish-dealer the other day. "It is marked on his body. No? Well, I'll show you one."

The dealer took a live lobster out of a heap on the marble slab.

"Its name is Joe," the dealer said, after he had inspected one of its legs. "Now, can you find it?"

The customer took the lobster gingerly by the back of the neck, where it could not reach his hand with his nippers. Turning it on its back so that the brown legs at its side flopped backward, a smooth streak half an inch long and nearly as wide was seen on the thigh. In this streak, like a mosaic, were short lines, as though some one had printed on it with indelible ink in backward the characters J O E.

"Some lobsters are named John; and I once clearly made out the name Julia."

Grew Up With the Indians.

Representative Curtis, of Kansas, has an elaborate pipe of peace. It is made of fine pipestone, and can accommodate several warriors about the council fire. It came to him recently as a gift from the Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, and as an expression of their affectionate regard.

Indians who come to Washington always look Mr. Curtis up soon after their arrival. His fame is wide among the red men of many tribes, and he palavers with the aged chiefs and dignified braves in the most intimate manner. When he was a boy the Kansas played among the Indian papooses, and much of his younger life was spent about the wigwams of Shawnee Country.—Washington Post.

Food Taken by Greek Athletes.

The athletes of Greece in ancient times when training for physical contests, were fed on new cheese, figs and boiled grain. Their drink was warm water, and they were not allowed to eat meat.

SHIP'S CHRONOMETERS.

Some of the Tests to Which They are Subjected.

There is a popular belief that chronometers, those delicate pieces of mechanism which enable the mariner to tell to a nicety where he is upon the ocean, are made only in England. One will be told even in Maiden Lane that England is chronometer-maker to the world. This was true at one time, but now, according to shipmasters, American turns out excellent chronometers. There are, however, only three American makers as against numerous British firms. Many of the instruments in use in the United States Navy are of American make. These chronometers are purchased on trial. The delicate instrument is subjected to extremes of temperature, by means of which its variations are ascertained. No instrument leaves the maker's hands until it has been thoroughly tested, or before it is three years old. In this period there is ample opportunity for developing its peculiarities. When it is understood that an error of four seconds on the part of the chronometer will put a skipper a mile out of his course the necessity of the most careful and thorough test is apparent.

Even when an instrument has been tested to the satisfaction of the experts, and has been finally adjusted, only a skilled man can be allowed to carry it from the workshop to the ship. One firm alone has a dozen of these carriers constantly employed. They are not, of course, dealing all the time with new chronometers; there are from 400 to 500 always in stock from ships arriving in the port of New York from all parts of the world. As soon as a ship comes into port its chronometer is usually sent ashore for rating, that is to say, it is carefully observed until the ship is ready to sail, when the variation is reported to the captain, who can then make his calculations accordingly. The chronometers of the transatlantic liners are sent ashore for rating every time they come into port. The greatest care is taken of chronometers on board ship, and on all first-class ships there are usually three, one being for deck observations. The most perfect one of the lot is usually placed in a dry but well-ventilated apartment amidships, where it is firmly screwed down, and should there be fear of dampness, wrapped in a heavy woollen blanket. On the government vessels the chronometer is placed in a case lined and padded with curled hair, which keeps it from being jarred. The smallest speck of rust on the balance-spring might cause a chronometer to lose its accuracy. A first-class chronometer costs \$250 and one of the same grade capable of telegraphing its own time, sells at \$450.—New York Post

Her Lesson in Civility.

One afternoon recently a stylishly dressed woman boarded an Illinois Central train at Forty-seventh street. She sat down in the only vacant seat, beside a young workman who was reading a book. The man wore blue overalls and carried a dinner pail. The woman drew herself together superciliously and elevated her eyebrows. In getting her ticket she dropped her purse, and the young fellow picked it up and offered it to her politely. She took it without a word of thanks. All the way uptown she fidgeted and behaved so unpleasantly that the attention of the other passengers in the car was attracted to the little drama.

When the train stopped at Randolph street the woman in crowding past knocked the book from the workman's hands.

"I beg your pardon," she condescended.

"Not at all, ma'am," responded the young fellow, cheerfully. "It's quite in keeping with the rest of your conduct."

And everybody thought it served her right.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The Carrot.

The carrot has never attained in this country that measure of usefulness and distinction which belong to it in some other parts of the world, but is regarded rather as a plebeian vegetable, not fit to appear with those seen in good society. How it fell into its low estate it is hard to understand, for it has not always been thus. In the East, where it originated, it serves in many dishes, and long ago it was used in England as an ornament, at least in part. The leaves of the carrot are fernlike, but do not wilt as easily as ferns, and the ladies of the court of King Charles I. made them serve in the place of plumes in dressing the hair.

The carrot has great virtues as a preservative of the health, and the frequent eating of it is said to add to the beauty of the skin, bringing a soft, satiny quality to it. Cattlemen know that it is good for stock. It forms blood, so the country women tell us. Its roots mashed make an excellent poultice for inflammatory surfaces.—New York Observer.

When Nails Were Valuable.

Nails were a valuable commodity in early days in Albany, when they were forged by hand. On May 18, 1780, the Common Council passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the clerk draw an order on the Chamberlain to pay Cornelius Van Deusen, Arent Van Deusen and Jacob Van Loon each the sum of twenty shillings for their services in picking up nails after the destruction of the barracks by fire."—Albany Argus.

The Florida orange crop has succumbed to frost, thereby scoring the usual beat on the Delaware peach crop.