

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX.

NOTES OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMININE TOPICS.

Walking Shoes—An Expensive Fad—Handkerchief Drapery—Corner on Ostrich Plumes—Unusual Occupations for Women—On the Under Brim.

Walking Shoes.

It is doubtless very wise and sensible for women taking long strolls for exercise to wear broad-toed, wide-soled boots, but fashion now dictates that she shall only wear them at such times. For ordinary wear the square toe is rapidly disappearing, and the medium toe, known as the "opera," has taken its place. Heels are perceptibly higher than last year.

An Expensive Fad.

A well-known leader of fashion is making a quaint little collection of tiny dressed dolls that are models of the frocks she wears herself. When the dressmaker sends home a new garment, she duplicates it by a tiny model on a doll. Everything must be perfect, even down to the real lace and solid silver or gold buttons and diamond buckles. The dolls are ranged in a glass case in their owner's dressing room, with the date of their creation underneath.

Handkerchief Drapery.

How many waists one sees made up with what is known as handkerchief drapery, most becoming to the girl with ill-developed chest. The drapery comes from the shoulder and about the armhole, whence it spreads something like a bolero. The fullness is draped on the chest exactly in the middle, and apparently tied there with a neat bow-knot. This is not the case, however, as the drapery is stitched in pleats at the end. Both ends hook together in the middle of the waist, and the neat bow is made separately and stitched firmly on afterward, to conceal the place where the hooks and eyes meet. The amount of fullness in handkerchief drapery is carefully regulated to make the best effect. A thin woman should have profuse drapery to conceal the meagre outline of her breast. Better development will require less fullness. Alas for the sister with embonpoint. She is not allowed by her dressmaker to wear the pretty "handkerchief drapery." This is used in wash materials as well as in woolen or silk goods.

Corner on Ostrich Plumes.

Women with their hearts set on ostrich-feather boas and hats trimmed with the plumage of the awkward African bird will grieve to learn that at the very time when the Boer-British war has shut off the African supply of plumes an American resident of Arizona has contrived to effect a "corner" on the ostrich-feather product of the United States. "The mean old thing" has bought up all the purchasable ostriches in the United States and made contracts with the owners of "show birds" so that he is to get their feather product at stated intervals. There have been four profitable ostrich farms in this country, and the Arizona speculator has bought all their birds, and when he calls the roll on his ranch near Phoenix for the spring picking there will be 800 "feather factories" present. Hitherto the importation of ostrich plumes from South Africa has amounted to \$550,000 annually. The war brought the available supply down ninety per cent, and the wary American saw his chance for becoming a sure enough ostrich-plume octopus. What he will do to the prices remains to be seen, but it is expected that the picture hat and the diaphanous boa chiefly constructed of the curled and dyed plumes of the big bird will become as costly and as scarce as fine seal or ermine.—Chicago Record.

Unusual Occupations for Women.

Two sisters living in San Francisco are achieving success in unusual occupations for women. One is a carpenter, the other a boss painter. The former, a girl of twenty, has built a five room house in which her family lives. The father of the girls is a carpenter and conceived the idea of bringing his daughters up as though they were boys, giving them men's trades. Besides building houses, hammering and sawing with her own sturdy arms, Miss Elizabeth Slocum plans every detail of architecture. The walls of the living room in this girl built house are covered with burlap, which conceals two folding beds built into the wall. Chests of drawers and closets on the other side are hidden in like manner, and it is a simple matter to draw back the curtains and transform the place into a comfortable bedroom.

On the Under Brim.

A new method of facing the brim of a dress hat, to be worn at a lawn or garden party, is to do away with the usual underbrim facing which was once conventionally supplied in velvet, silk or lace. This new facing does not go all the way around the brim, but manages to frame the face in a manner even more becoming than the old style flat facing. It is nothing more nor less than a ribbon bow, voluminous as to loops, and stretched out sideways so as to face the front and side of the hat, always intervening between the head and the straw brim and crown. Neither

is it a flat lining, for loops of ribbon are superimposed one upon the other, the ends pulled out softly and stretched to hide the straw brim, as well as to overlap the under loop, just as a rose petal rests on petal, yet more opened in a freshly-opening flower. Two shades of a color or two colors that look well together are combined in the same bow. Very often a "bouquet" of tints is used, four pale or deep tints and loops of white ribbon all combined together. The tender, soft and opalescent hues are used as underbrim bows, because they blend successfully. Another advantage of using several colors in this bow is that it permits the hat to be worn with toilettes of different hues, whereas, if the facing were of a single color, especially if this be a "pronounced" color, then the same hat commits you to a frock to match. The stretched-out bow is a feature of under-brim decoration. It distinguishes the 1900 chapeaux from those of former seasons. Taffeta ribbon, glistening and changeable, is the best medium for these bows, being more modish than satin ribbon just now.—Philadelphia Record.

A Story of the Stage.

An interesting story of the stage has just developed in the life of Mme. Emma Nevada, which afforded her the opportunity of meeting a lost sister, from whom she had not heard in twenty-eight years.

The famous singer was filling an engagement in Cleveland, Ohio, when the incident occurred. It seems that ever since the death of her mother, twenty-eight years ago, Mme. Nevada has been keeping a diamond ring which she received from her mother on her deathbed, with the request that it be given to her older sister, Laura.

Mme. Nevada's sister now is Mrs. Laura Icks, of West Brookfield, Ohio. The clerk of the hotel where Mme. Nevada was staying was interrogated by three women, who asked if Mme. Nevada was in. The woman finally explained that one of their number was Mme. Nevada's sister. Mrs. Icks went up to her sister's rooms to surprise her. The singer's husband answered the knock. When Mme. Nevada greeted her caller it was without an idea of the relationship existing between them. Explanations were made, and both sisters were much affected.

Eight years before the death of their mother in Michigan, Mrs. Icks left her home. Mme. Nevada was with her mother when she died. The address of the older sister was not known, but nevertheless she was not forgotten. Before Mrs. Wixom, the mother, died, she gave to Emma the diamond ring which was received by Mrs. Icks. Soon after her mother's death Mme. Nevada went abroad to continue her musical studies. She lost the last known address of her sister and had heard nothing of her in all these years. It was fifteen years since Mme. Nevada sang in Cleveland. Mrs. Icks, her sister, has been living on a farm near there for many years. Several days ago she read an announcement that Mme. Nevada would appear in a concert, and she forthwith determined to call on her and effect a reunion. With her came two of her neighbors.—Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

About the Figure.

A woman who desires to make the very most of herself should study her own figure. She should find out its good points, its better points, its bad points and its very bad points. She should then take it in hand and by means of exercise, diet, gymnastics, a good tailor and a first-class corset-maker, set herself up to the best possible advantage.

A woman can really do more with her figure than she can with her face. If inclined to be too stout she should rigorously abstain from everything that encourages embonpoint, such as late hours, overindulgence at table and leading in general a lazy, indolent existence. If she has not the courage to make these sacrifices she must say good-by to beauty of form. She will then join the overflowing ranks of women who, when they have passed the age of 30 make no further pretension to beauty of figure.

If on the contrary, her trouble be an unsightly leanness of body and limb, which makes it impossible for her ever to appear in either becoming evening gown or smart tailor frock, she should, with the aid of both diet and gymnastics, set about developing her form to the utmost. It is her duty to cover with soft, firm curving flesh the harsh outline of her angles. Some thin women think it useless to try to put on a little flesh. They say hopelessly, "Oh, it's not my nature to be fat." They appear never to have learned that it is of the very nature of a human being to possess a healthy, well-developed body. When they lack this gift of nature, their birthright, there is something wrong somewhere. They should find out what it is and remedy it.

Bits of Femininity.

Coatees of white tucked taffeta are a late luxury in carriage wraps.

Gold ribbon belts are in revival and look very smart on pretty figures.

Yokes on skirts, or the simulated yoke, is a fashion increasing in popularity.

White crepe de chine over a colored silk foundation is a new effect in a stock.

Pale blue is bound to be the color of

the year in every material, from broad-cloth to gauze.

White corded wash silk ties made with out lining are taking the place of the pique stock.

Fine beads, sewn on at regular intervals all over silk waists, are one of the Parisian fancies.

Toques formed entirely of flowers or of tulle with wreaths of panne velvet flowers are very artistic.

A late and fetching summer frock is of scrim, regular curtain scrim, trimmed with Russian lace.

Fichus, berthas, boleros and chemises of duchesse lace, are again being pushed to the fore of fashion.

Long coats of black net, lined with white chiffon, are among the fascinations which the new wraps suggest.

Shirring is steadily advancing for both skirt and bodice ornamentation. It is especially in evidence in the new thin gowns.

A particularly smart short waist is of ecru linen, trimmed with bands of the same, covered with either black or white stitching.

Machine stitching has lost none of its popularity, and as a means of decoration will be more generally employed than ever before.

The daintiest of the silk waists made up for summer wear are of peau de sole, with hand-embroidered garlands or trailing vines in natural colors.

The use of velvet ribbon as a form of decoration continues to grow, and now that the embroidery idea has also pervaded them, some pretty effects are thus obtained.

LOST \$10,000 BY SNEEZING.

Detective in a Closet Couldn't Keep It Back and the Robbers Fled.

While the detectives were sitting around the office waiting for the sergeant to issue assignments and make details, one of the men, an old sleuth, whose hair has grown white with shadowing criminals, suddenly gave a loud sneeze that made the incandescent light vibrate.

"Great star," exclaimed one of the younger brood, "you are the most voracious sneezer I ever heard of."

"Yes; let me tell you something, boys," replied the old detective, "that sneeze of mine once cost me \$10,000."

The expressions of incredulity upon the faces of his hearers caused the old detective to tell the story of the costly sneeze.

"Maybe some of you remember," he said, "about the police in Atlanta being notified back in the '80s of two bank robbers heading this way. They had robbed a bank in the East, and the report was they were going to Atlanta to meet and divide the spoils, having separated after the robbery to avoid suspicion. I was detailed to work on the case, and it wasn't many days before I had spotted a suspicious stranger stopping at a boarding-house in the city. I kept a close watch on him, and a few days later another suspicious character turned up and went to the same house to board. I knew the men were only suspected, and that to secure evidence upon which to convict them I would have to see them together when they divided the money, or hear them discuss their plans when they thought themselves unnoticed."

"So I arranged with the landlady of the boarding house," continued the old detective, "to lock me in the closet opening into the room which my birds occupied. I was afraid not to have the closet locked, because the fellows might have pried around and opened the closet to be sure they were alone. I was to stay in the locked closet until the men held their meeting, and as soon as they left the landlady was to hurry into the room and release me. The rest would have been plain sailing."

"Well, the fellows met, and I was in the closet all right. I heard them talk and discuss the division of the money. Then at a most critical moment I felt that I was going to sneeze. I did everything in my power to keep the sneeze down, but the dust in the closet had got in its work, and I gave one of my regulation sneezes, greatly intensified because I had attempted to suppress it. The jig was up. I heard two men fleeing down the steps. I knocked on the door and the landlady let me out after what I thought was an interminable wait. The men escaped from the city, and so far as I know were never caught. There was a reward of \$10,000 for them."—Atlanta Constitution.

The "Dresser" and "Barker."

Newsboys and the unoccupiedurchina of the street ply a profitable trade by calling carriage numbers for tips after evening performances at the Metropolitan Opera House. All men in conventional evening dress, or "dressers," as the carriage-calling cult terms them, are open to attack.

"Here you go, mister," said a youthful "barker" to a "dresser" on a recent evening. "Lemme call your carriage. Gimme your number, and I'll have your caddy here in two minutes. Aw, g'wan. Lemme do it," he pleaded.

"I have no carriage," answered the "dresser."

The barker was disgusted. "Lost me good wind on you, sure," he said. "Why don't you wear jumpers, or how is a feller goin' to tell who's good and who ain't?"—New York Commercial Advertiser.

A monthly German periodical is now issued in Japan.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A church society in Brooklyn discussed at a recent meeting the question, "Which is more demoralizing, fashion or tobacco?"

The total number of men available for military duty in the United States, but unorganized, is 10,343,150, and the aggregate organized strength is 106,339.

Russia, it is said, will fall to pieces after one great defeat in battle. None of her critics seem inclined, however, to teach her the lesson of a great defeat.

The State Superintendent of Schools in Iowa says that the Iowa school-teachers are paid lower salaries than in any other of the States of the Middle West, excepting Ohio.

The farmers of India are very slow to adopt new ideas. An English plow firm recently sent a steam plow at heavy expense all over the country, but did not succeed in selling a single implement.

There is no demand for foreign advisers to the Korean government. Although two Americans who held such positions have recently died, their places have been filled and there is no further demand for assistance of that kind.

near Bilbao, Spain, are to be utilized for the generation of 2,800 horse-power to be employed in operating a railway thirty-seven miles long, to be built between the towns of Zamarraga and Yumaga. Old Spain is waking up.

The higher classes of machinery and tools used in Russia are from Great Britain and the United States. At present there is more demand for common sorts, the finer sorts are used in bicycle factories, marine machine shops, etc.

A Vermont girl is making an excellent living in New York City by teaching other girls how to make bread. Now, if the girls taught will only continue to make bread after they become matrons the benefit will have been mutual.

It is said in London that twenty-one newspaper correspondents have either died by disease or been killed in South Africa since the war began, and that as many more are disabled as the result of wounds or sickness. News from the firing line costs life as well as money.

American coin does not circulate in China. Silver dollars sell by weight as bulk silver, and gold dollars are bought by jewelers at the metal value. Banks pay less owing to risk in shipping the coin to America. Greenbacks bring a higher price at the banks than gold, owing to less cost of transportation.

The waterfalls of the River Leizaran, West Virginia is one of the most active States in railroad building this year. There are now some twenty roads building, and the mileage under construction amounts to 500 miles. About 2,244 miles of railroads are in operation, of which 833 have been added in the last nine years.

It was observed at the first performance of Sousa's band in the American section of the Paris Exposition that the enthusiasm of the great audience of Americans that gathered to hear it did not break all bounds until the "Cake Walk" and other rag-time pieces were played. Then the American colony became delirious. It danced and whooped and demanded encores until the band was exhausted. The Frenchmen present couldn't understand it.

Glasgow, Scotland, has erected a municipal day nursery of 160 rooms, at a cost of \$85,000, for the accommodation of motherless families or for small children whose mothers go out to daily labor and must leave their dependent offspring at home. It is not an orphanage, not a charity at all in the strict sense of the word, since the working people who avail themselves of its privileges pay a small sum for what they receive.

In a recent article in the New York Herald Dr. James J. Walsh of the city, makes the assertion that the widespread use of automobiles as substitutes for horse-drawn vehicles will injure to the general health of the city. Much contagion is spread, he says, by the blowing about of dry manure, which in its moist state is used by all sorts of insects as a receptacle for their eggs. The bacilli of tetanus is often carried to cities in hay, which is the basis of all equine food. Numerous other disease-bringing microbes were traced by the worthy doctor directly to the erstwhile "best friend of man."

The Juvenile Court of Chicago, during its nine months of operation, has considered the cases of 1,235 delinquent children, 765 of whom have been paroled and placed in charge of probation officers. To give a boy another chance in his own home, to help him begin again a normal boy's life is the work of a probation officer. To this end the officer seeks to establish cordial relations with the parents of the paroled boy, to slip into the position of a family friend, to check the recurrence of lawlessness on the part of the boy with as little exercise as possible of the authority which the court confers.

By a decision of the Hawaiian Supreme Court the Queen's museum in Honolulu, founded by the late Queen Emma, loses practically all its endowment. The case turned on the meaning of issue. Queen Emma's father, an Englishman, left her a large fortune, with the condition that if she died without issue the estate should revert to his nephew in England. Emma had a son, but the child died years before the mother. Yet this was regarded as fulfilling the provisions of the will. Now the Court holds that the testator meant living issue at the time of Queen Emma's death. It awards the estate to the English heir.

The revival in immigration, which is now at the rate of one hundred thousand a year, is one of the most striking signs of the development of the United States to be the recipient of the best manhood of the older countries. It is always the strong and sturdy man, able to take care of himself, adventurous enough to carve out his own career, who leaves the old homestead for new countries. Such a man without a dollar in his pocket is worth a great deal to any community which receives him, thinks the Atlanta Constitution. His brawn, added to the working force, becomes a creator of wealth, and his industry helps to build up new homes and new enterprises.

A shortage in lumber and consequent higher prices for this season are predicted by dealers in the West. The shortage is ascribed to the forest fires and the drought in the lumber-producing section of the Northwest. It was expected, on account of advanced values, that the production for 1900 would overcome a large part of this shortage for the present season, but because of unfavorable logging conditions there has resulted an additional shortage of log production. Lack of snow in the lumber districts seriously interfered with the hauling of logs to the river bank, and low water in the rivers has prevented the delivery to the mills of much of the timber shelled to the rivers. There is no likelihood of relief in this respect, as the season of woods is past. Added to the shrinkage in supply are the losses of millions of feet by forest fires, and the loss by the fire in Ottawa, coupled with the fact that there can be no output this season from the mills burned in that fire.

In some Western cities quite a trade has grown up in the sale of little metal disks of the size and weight of nickels and dimes, which are used for defrauding the slot machines. They are sold by the dozen or more for ten cents. So general has become the fraud in some cities that slot machines are rarely stationed where there is not enough business to pay the expense of an attendant. The telephone companies have been hit the worst, and are at a loss what to do about it. Thus far there have been no prosecutions, owing to the difficulty of detection. The story recalls a similar trick in a small Connecticut town a few years ago, where a brass mill was cutting out blanks for nickels for the government, to ease the overworked Philadelphia mint. Barrels of these blanks stood around in the mill, and the younger employees helped themselves to handfuls, and for a week revelled in stolen gum, chocolates, and the like. At the end of that time the collector for the slot-machine companies had over a bushel of nickel disks to dispose of.

A complaint in the London Lancet shatters faith in one of the most common articles of food, British doctors, it seems, have been in the habit of prescribing custard as food for their patients in many cases. In doing so they naturally suppose that the invalids were consuming eggs and milk, but they find that they were mistaken and that over there custard is made without eggs and without milk. The Lancet has looked into the matter and reports: "The custard without eggs is usually a powder consisting of little else than starch colored with turmeric (in one case we found a fluorescent aniline dye) to give it the color of the yolk of egg. A custard prepared with custard powder is thick with starch, whereas a true custard is thick with the albumen of egg. It is true that it is usually suggested that the powder should be boiled with milk." This sounds unpleasant enough, apart from the Lancet's chemical analysis of the mixture and its gruesome suggestions as to the effect of the substitution in specific diseases. It would seem, however, that a taste not unduly vitiated should be able to distinguish between the true and false in custard, particularly by taste of an invalid. To the Lancet, however, it seems important that there should be legal definition of the meaning of custard.

Americans in the Lead.

If there is one lesson which I have learned better than another during my American lecture tour, it is this: The people of this country are growing more intelligent as a whole, keeping step with the great march of material wealth. It is, therefore, necessary for a lecturer to walk up to his audience, not down to it, as was the rule in former years. There is hardly a stupid face to be seen from Maine to California. How I wish that I could say the same of Europe! Americans are not all beautiful, but they are all intelligent-looking.—Max O'Rell in Success.

MR. WU'S INQUISITIVENESS.

He Would Run Old Li a Hard Race in Asking Questions.

Mr. Wu, the Chinese minister to this country, closely resembles Li Hung Chang in his fondness for pushing home pointed questions, and this proclivity was well illustrated in an amusing little colloquy which occurred in his parlor at the St. Charles one afternoon during his recent stay in New Orleans. A man present was incensed enough to remark that he had no eye for feminine charms. Instantly Wu pounced upon him. How that? he demanded, in his odd, abrupt fashion, peering at the other over the top of his large gold spectacles. "How that? Why don't you care?" "Well, your excellency," replied the caller, a little startled, "I'm not young any longer, and—" "You married?" interrupted the minister. "No, sir; I'm a widower." "Ah, you marry again?" "Why—er—no," said the embarrassed gentleman, mopping his forehead. "No, sir; I have no such intentions."

There was the ghost of a smile about Mr. Wu's eyes, but his face was otherwise inscrutable. It was impossible to tell whether he was having fun or satisfying a serious curiosity, and what made his staccato questions peculiarly disconcerting was the fact that each of them was fired so swiftly upon the heels of an answer. There was no time to catch one's breath. "Not marry again," he echoed. "Where you live?" "Why—why—at home, your excellency, of course." "With who?" "With my children." "They marry you think—some time?" "I—I—that is—yes, sir; I suppose they will." "Where you live then?"

Again the victim mopped his brow and the other visitors grinned discreetly behind their hats. Minister Wu shot them a quick glance, as much as to say, "I've got him now." It was very funny. "Where you live, then?" he repeated. "It is my intention, sir, to make my home with one of my children." "One your children—after they marry?" "Yes, sir." "Ah, if they let you." "They will be glad to have me, I hope." "You think so—well." The minister shut his eyes for a moment and reflected. "Our system is best," he said, dropping his inquisitorial manner and addressing the entire party. "In China the married children continue to live with the parents. There is never any doubt about a home for all." While he was speaking, the gentleman who had been catechised hastily retired to the rear and had nothing further to say during the visit.

Ironclad Fever.

Probably the most striking event in the history of naval architecture is the substitution of metal for wood as a material for ships. The Monitor, in the days of the Civil war, not only demonstrated the advantages of iron over wood for purposes of war, and revolutionized the methods of naval architecture, but also sanctioned a marked example of how sanitary ideas in ship-building have had their birth. In the fight between the Monitor and Merrimac it was found that there was not sufficient air in the turreted steamer for the crew, and that the suffocating gases generated by the explosion of gunpowder found their way below and rendered it practically impossible for the men to work. Necessity, therefore, compelled the introduction of some apparatus for artificial ventilation. The old methods, in vogue for hundreds of years, had been retained, even under the new conditions, and but for the striking exhibition of direct interference with fighting capacity would have remained for many years longer. It was in the early ironclads that a peculiar disease developed which, being confined to those vessels, was soon designated ironclad fever. In this affection the initial symptoms were much like those of typhus, but in a short time severe occipital pain was followed by complete aphonia, and this by coma and death. The introduction of ventilating appliances caused the disappearance of this singular disease, and in time these metal boxes, almost entirely submerged, came to be regarded as probably the most salubrious vessels afloat.—Casier's Magazine.

Dog Mail Carrier.

Out in Kansas, where so many things are different, there is a big St. Bernard mail carrier. He lives in one of the little "cross roads" towns, where the only store, which is also the postoffice, is thirty rods from the railroad track. The train always goes whizzing by at a good rate of speed, whistling as it approaches. Nep hears the whistle and hurries to the crossing and waits for the coming of the mail. The mail clerk kicks the leather bag out of the car door and it falls somewhere in the vicinity of the road. Nep at once goes to the sack and carefully takes it by the middle, so that neither end will drag on the ground, walks sedately to the store, where he deposits his burden in a safe place.

He does this every day, in spite of the weather, and the whole country knows and is proud of the dog mail carrier.

Nep is four years old, is two feet seven inches in height and weighs 250 pounds. He has no difficulty in carrying the sack, though the mail is often very heavy, with the weekly papers from the county seat, for his teeth are strong and he has carried over 100 pounds as a test of his strength.

Minnesota schools cost about \$5,000,000 annually, and that is one-third of the money raised by the taxes in the State.