SIMPLICITY.

Simplicity is rapidly becoming an obsolete quality among the maids of the new century, who are evolving at a pace that is simply bewildering, affirms a writer in the New York Tribune. Not long ago a young girl, whatever her status in society, was gowned simply, and jewels were considered in bad taste. Now she vies with the married women in the richness of her attire, and glitters with diamonds. Then, she was carefully guarded as much as possible from the knowledge of evil, and free speech was restricted by her presence. Now she partakes of the fruit of knowledge of good and evil with her elders, and is no longer the ingenue. Girls, however, are not having an easy time of it by any means.

The obligations of their enfranchisement far outweigh the supposed advantages they have gained. The life of an up-to-date girl in society, unless she is exceptionally well endowed with this world's goods, is a very difficult and strenuous one. To dress appropriately, according to the standards of the day, for every function, to pay for tips at house parties, wedding presents, hansoms, luncheons and the hundred and one assessments which Vanity Fair exacts from its inhabitants, make even what would have been considered a liberal allowance a few years ago seem totally inadequate to the requirements of a girl of today. What wonder, therefore, that the undisciplined, thoughtless young creatures often get into trouble, that they incur obligations that it is impossible for them to meet, that they roll up bills that they cannot pay, for it is an open secret that some of the young women who manage to dress and live like their richer associates are in financial difficulties, and nothing but a rich marriage or an enforced assistance on the part of their incensed relatives will save them from an unpleasant exposure. England, who, in spite of her strictures on American fast living, manages to keep well ahead of America in the pace that kills, has already had the social excitement of a bankrupt "society girl."

THE SMOKING ROOM.

Considerable judgment is needed in the furnishing of a smoking room to make its decoration, while pleasing to the eye, subservient to the main object and to render it thoroughly cosy, and at the same time free from all superfluous furnishings. It must be purposeful in its arrangement, and yet not so wholly consecrated to Mme. Nicotine as to suggest the exclusion of all but her votaries from its comforts.

Paneling, carved within a few feet of the ceiling, and finished with a deep frieze in some warm, rich color, is the best wall treatment. Sporting cups and trophies can be arranged along the molded top of this paneling, and, with a few good engravings hung along the woodwork, will be all the decoration necessary.

The floor should be of polished boards or parquetry, and a carpet is altogether undesirable. A few skins and warm toned rugs that can be taken up and shaken every morning may be used.

The windows may be paned with leaded glass, with, perhaps, a touch of color, and the curtains, while they should be warm and substantial looking, should by no means be of a fabric to which memories of the fragrant weed will cling until they are no longer fragrant. Linen, with borders of stencil or applique, may be used, and should reach no farther than the window sill. Serge, with borders of contrasting color, might also be used. There should be no portieres, but a screen of Spanish leather may be placed in front of the door as a protection from draughts. An inglenook is indispensable to the ideal smoking room, and the chairs should be deep-seated and wide-backed.

There should be a large and useful table, capable of holding ash trays, books, reading lamp, etc., a book wagon beside the easiest chair, a bureau bookcase, with a letdown flap for writing, and book shelves in convenient corners, with tops capable of holding masculine knick-knacks.

NOVELTIES IN STATIONERY.

While the conservative woman rarely changes the form or fashion of the paper and envelopes upon which she indites her notes and letters, still there are those who like such fancies as the stationers put temptingly forth.

Many maids and matrons select a certain style of paper and then, year after year, cling persistently to it. With these the choice is more often than not Irish linen, on account of its simplicity. This they have monogramed if the taste runs that way; but the really good thing upon one's stationery is the house address. Recently the busy society woman has realized that it saves time and energy—and often temper, too—to have the number of her telephone follow directly under that of her house.

For those fair young girls who are constantly seeking novelties the fashionable stationers this season have introduced several. Ragged edged envelopes, looking as if they had just been roughly torn, are among these, while dotted Swiss paper is another new production. The surface of this resembles chiffon and is sprinkled with large or small dots, according to the feminine fancy.

While white paper is always in the best of taste, still colored stationery is being used. The newest color upon which short notes of acceptance and regrets are being penned is that of topaz hue. Parchment paper, with a mottled surface, in blue-gray, is a novelty, while French grays and paper of a greenish tint are made up into writing materials.—New York American.

GUARD AGAINST WET FEET.

What woman who has to go out in all sorts of weather has not worried as to how she should dress her feet on wet and slushy days?

The ordinary heavy winter boots will not keep out the wet. Gaiters and rubbers are better, but they are clumsy to look at and tiresome to adjust, and, if it is really bad weather, rain soaks through them.

There is the lightweight waterproof shoe, made of flexible rubber, that can be pulled on and off easily over the boot. This seems a very sensible and useful invention. It insures perfect dryness.

But there is a better and more satisfactory footgear for business women—the high waterproof storm boot, in black or tan. The leather is treated so that rain and snow will slide harmlessly off it.

These boots are ten inches high and the tongue is fastened all the way up on both sides, but wide enough to allow the shoe to come on and off easily.

If you want comfort and dry feet, which means no colds or other evils contracted from improperly clad feet, buy yourself a pair of these shoes and enjoy the luxury of comfort and health.

ODD HOUSE DECORATION.

Everybody has heard of the last-century rake who papered his private sanctum with writs and of his humbler imitator of later date who decorated his temple of domestic bliss with county court summonses. A similar idea, says the London Tatler, seems to have occurred to Mme. Christine Nilsson, who in private life is the Comtesse de Miranda. Her dining room is hung with hotel bills interfaid in the wainscot, says the latest report from Madrid. "Each one has its story," explained madame, "something funny, something absurd, something, perhaps, that may have made me angry at the time; enfin, there will be no lack of something to talk about after dinner." In her private apartments the note is even more personal, for the pictures are all paintings of the prima donna in the costume of her various roles. "Great artists," as an admirer of Whistler once said to me, "can always afford to contemplate themselves with equanimity."

THE COLLARLESS WAIST.

Collarless bodices are taking the lead wherever there is any dressiness attempted. This feature particularly divides the two styles of costumes, while it strictly imposes itself upon the fine creations of the dressmaker's art.

It softens and beautifies the face very much to have lace fill up the rigid collarbone space, as it is a very great charm to be able to wear the neck quite uncovered on occasions, except for the jewel dressing it may receive.

Debutantes' gowns are to be strictly carried out in this manner; the neck line to be observed in one of three, either a point or V-shape, a shallow Raphael square, or a low circular line. These lines bear relatively upon the features and shape of the face.

A long oval face is shortened and improved by a square opening at the neck, a very round face by the pointed opening, while a face with the nose a little too prominent is greatly improved by the circular opening, with its tendency to broaden out.

Various dangling ornaments of crochet are as modish as ever.

One of the odd new cuffs is made of a moderate size medallion; a square might serve.

The newest greens are hard to describe. They are not emerald nor sage nor olive nor leaf green. They are dark, yet warm, and have little yellow in them, inclining more toward a bluish shading.

Skirt gores take on enough shape to puzzle the uninitiated.

The fashionable shades are red, silver-blue and daffodil-yellow. The usual pale shades of pink, blue and yellow are completely outshadowed by the heavier, darker colors.

Colored hems and small finely embroidered initials, also in colors, are shown in the new handkerchiefs. Tiny colored butterflies are scattered over the surface of some.

New York City.—The handkerchief bertha has a peculiar grace and style that separates it from all others. The very charming waist illustrated includes one of the sort and, also, the new gauntlet cuffs with wide, drooping puffs above. As shown it is made of violet crepe mousseline, with the yoke and cuffs of chiffon velvet in a deeper shade and trimming of cream lace, but innumerable variations can be arranged. Yoke and cuffs of lace, mousseline lined, are charming, ruches of tiny chiffon flowers make admirable substitutes for the lace applique and many other combinations might be made, while material may be anything soft enough to drape well.

WAIST WITH BERTHA.

The waist is made over a smoothly fitted foundation and closes invisibly at the centre back. The lining is faced to form the yoke when high neck is desired, is cut away on indicated lines when a low effect is preferred. The bertha is made in handkerchief style, with deep points at front and back, and that droop well over the sleeves, and serves to outline the yoke. Beneath the bertha the waist is full and soft. The sleeves are the new ones that are shirred to fit the upper arms snugly and form full puffs below the elbows, then are gathered into deep gauntlet cuffs.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is five and one-quarter yards twenty-one inches wide, four yards twenty-seven inches wide, of two and five-eighth yards forty-four inches wide, with one yard of velvet and one-quarter yards of applique to trim as illustrated.

New Coats and Wraps.

New coats and wraps in cloth, velvet and peau de soie are handsome and substantial garments. Practically all are three-quarter length, against the very long coats worn last year. A large number of light colored wraps are seen. A very elegant wrap of deep cream-colored cloth is faced with satin of the same color, the satin being veiled with accordion pleated brown chiffon, with a border of ecru lace. The coat is trimmed around the shoulders, upper sleeves and skirt with alternate rows of narrow and wide brown velvet ribbon.

Vandyke Points.

The neckband of the fine lawn or lace which has three or five Vandyke points beneath the chin is far more becoming than that which has four, or only two. The latter bring the clip or narrow point of the collar directly beneath the chin, which is not becoming, so the collar with an irregular number of Vandykes may be worn with more complacency.

Lady Doll's Walking Costume.

The up-to-date doll is as carefully dressed as is her little owner and must have proper equipment for the various occasions of daily life. This very stylish costume includes one of the latest shirt waist gowns, with a long tailored coat and flaring hat. As illustrated, the coat and skirt are made of dark blue Sicilian mohair and the shirt waist and hat of taffeta, but the waist and skirt can be of one material and the coat of another if preferred and various changes can be made. In the case of the model the hat is trimmed with fur and a pompom, but fancy braid or ruching of any sort can be made to take its place. So long as the style of the garments is retained the little mother will be quite sure to be content.

The shirt waist is tucked at the front to yoke depth with a wide box pleated effect at the centre, but includes a plain back. Its sleeves are full and are tucked above the elbows in conformity with the latest style. The skirt is circular and is laid in backward turning pleats, which are stitched flat with corticelli silk to flounce depth, below which point they fall to produce the fashionable flare. The coat is the accepted one of the season, is plain and severe in cut, but includes the full sleeves that can be drawn over those of the shirt waist without difficulty.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is for skirt and coat, seven-eighth yards twenty-seven, or three-quarter yards forty-four inches wide; for waist, three-eighth yards twenty-one, or one-half yard twenty-seven inches wide, or one-quarter yard forty-four inches wide, with three-eighth yards silk for the hat.

A Late Design by May Manton.

LADY DOLL'S WALKING COSTUME.

FITS permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. $2 trial bottle and treatise free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Some women would rather marry in haste and repent at leisure than contemplate a rival repenting at leisure.

Earliest Green Onions.

The John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., always have something new, something valuable. This year they offer among their new money making vegetables an Earliest Green Eating Onion. It is a winner. Mr. Farmer and Gardener:

JUST SEND THIS NOTICE AND 16c.

and they will send you their big plant and seed catalog, together with enough seed to grow

1,000 fine, solid Cabbages,
2,000 delicious Carrots,
2,000 Blanching, nutty Celery,
2,000 rich, buttery Lettuce,
1,000 splendid Onions,
1,000 rare, luscious Radishes,
1,000 gloriously brilliant Flowers,

In all over 10,000 plants—this great offer is made to get you to test their warranted vegetable seeds and

ALL FOR BUT 15C. POSTAGE,

providing you will return this notice, and if you will send them 20c. in postage, they will add to the above a package of the famous Berliner Cauliflower. [A.C.L.]

A woman's education is never completed until she acquires the title of grandmother.

I am sure Piso's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—MRS. THOMAS ROBBINS, Maple St., Norwich, N.Y., Feb. 17, 1900.

Only the man who understands women admits that he doesn't.

Gratitude.

The snake was trying to shed his skin.

"Help me off with this, will you?" he said to a frog that happened to be passing.

The frog kindly complied with the request, and presently the discarded skin lay stretched along the ground.

"Now," observed the frog, "I suppose you will do with that as I do with my cast-off garments—eat it."

"No," said the snake. "There is something better in sight."

Thereupon he ate the frog.

The moral of this, my dears, is that there is more than one kind of skin game, and some kinds are meaner than others.

Matter of Grammar.

"Why do you persist in saying 'widow woman' all the time?" asked the expedagogue. "Why not 'widow' alone?"

"That's all right if she happens to be a plain widow," explained the party of the other part, "but if she's young, handsome and wealthy you'll seldom find her alone."

Mother

"My mother was troubled with consumption for many years. At last she was given up to die. Then she tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and was speedily cured."
D. P. Jolly, Avoca, N. Y.

No matter how hard your cough or how long you have had it, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is the best thing you can take. It's too risky to wait until you have consumption. If you are coughing today, get a bottle of Cherry Pectoral at once.

Three sizes: 25c., 50c., $1. All druggists.

Consult your doctor. If he says take it, then do as he says. If he tells you not to take it, then don't take it. He knows. Leave it with him. We are willing.
J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY; gives quick relief and cures worst cases. Book of testimonials and 10 days' treatment Free. Dr. H. H. GREEN'S SONS, Box B, Atlanta, Ga.

ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER IT PAYS

The Old Rule.

The delegation from the factory employes presented their demands and awaited the answer of the proprietor.

"Boys," he said, "you went out on a strike six months ago, didn't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"And two months ago you went out on another one?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, it has been many a day since I played baseball, but I know the rules. You have called two strikes on me. I'm too old to run now, and if you call a third, I'll simply go out—of business. See?"

They didn't call it.

His Old Trouble.

Mr. Subbubs—There, dear, I guess I've brought all the groceries and things.

Mrs. Subbubs—Why, you've forgotten the stuffed dates.

Mr. Subbubs—Well, well! I always did have a bad memory for dates.

Mrs. Fairbanks tells how neglect of warning symptoms will soon prostrate a woman. She thinks woman's safeguard is

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Ignorance and neglect are the cause of untold female suffering, not only with the laws of health but with the chance of a cure. I did not heed the warnings of headaches, organic pains, and general weariness, until I was well nigh prostrated. I knew I had to do something. Happily I did the right thing. I took **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound** faithfully, according to directions, and was rewarded in a few weeks to find that my aches and pains disappeared, and I again felt the glow of health through my body. Since I have been well I have been more careful, I have also advised a number of my sick friends to take **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound**, and they have never had reason to be sorry. Yours very truly, MRS. MAY FAIRBANKS, 216 South 7th St., Minneapolis, Minn." (Mrs. Fairbanks is one of the most successful and highest salaried travelling saleswomen in the West.)

When women are troubled with irregular, suppressed or painful menstruation, weakness, leucorrhœa, displacement or ulceration of the womb, that bearing-down feeling, inflammation of the ovaries, backache, bloating (or flatulence), general debility, indigestion, and nervous prostration, or are beset with such symptoms as dizziness, faintness, lassitude, excitability, irritability, nervousness, sleeplessness, melancholy, "all-gone" and "want-to-be-left-alone" feelings, blues, and hopelessness, they should remember there is one tried and true remedy. **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound** at once removes such troubles. Refuse to buy any other medicine, for you need the best.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—For over two years I suffered more than tongue can express with kidney and bladder trouble. My physician pronounced my trouble catarrh of the bladder, caused by displacement of the womb. I had a frequent desire to urinate, and it was very painful, and lumps of blood would pass with the urine. Also had backache very often.

"After writing to you, and receiving your reply to my letter, I followed your advice, and feel that you and **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound** have cured me. The medicine drew my womb into its proper place, and then I was well. I never feel any pain now, and can do my housework with ease."—MRS. ALICE LAMON, Kincaid, Miss.

No other medicine for female ills in the world has received such widespread and unqualified endorsement.

Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.

$5000 FORFEIT if we cannot forthwith produce the original letters and signatures of above testimonials, which will prove their absolute genuineness.
Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.