

SKIRTS GOING UP OR COMING DOWN? ASKS M'LISS

She Does Not Believe With Mrs. Edison That Four Inches From the Ground Constitutes Indecency, Although It May Mean Ungainliness

THE entrance of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison into the ranks of the dress reformists leads one to the conclusion that the eminent, but not often heard of woman, is tired of basking in the electric glow of her renowned husband's reputation.

"Skirts," declares this latest censor from New Jersey, catapulting herself into the limelight, "must come down. Anything higher than four inches is indecent. I am not against low-cut dresses, so long as they are within reason."

One is tempted to wonder if Mrs. Edison's liberality in regard to the décolleté is the outcome of the consciousness of the very beautiful neck and shoulders she is said to possess, though, of course, it should not follow that her disapproval of abbreviated skirts is attributable to any corresponding consciousness of her pedal extremities.

I do not intend to champion the short skirt. In fact I think it is extremely awkward and ungainly when worn by long, lanky women, or short, dumpy ones. But I cannot see the indecency that attaches to the wearing of such a skirt, any more than I should be shocked by the sudden appearance of knee breeches on our streets, should the masculine style-makers decree this style.

It is, of course, within the range of possibility that one might be shocked by the lack of symmetry of some of the calves thus displayed; just as one might be struck with the perfection of others. One's sense of beauty might be affected, but one's sense of morals should not be.

If there were anything indecent in a short skirt, then the Alsatian peasants, the Tyrolean mountaineers, the Galician women—all would be classed among the indecent, whereas it is commonly known they are the most modest of peoples.

A very short skirt may assume the proportions of the freakish, but it is infinitely more to be desired than the very long one of five (or was it ten?) years ago. This was the original street-sweeper and germ-collector. It was responsible for the coming of the pedestrian skirt, that modest garment which stopped virtuously enough at the ankle.

Horror! The prudels all but faded away at the advent of this. What was the naughty world coming to? The practicability of the pedestrian skirt, however, impressed itself upon a few of the sane. In their enthusiasm they may have shortened it slightly. Then the world became calloused to ankles, and skirts went up to the shoe-tops. Now it cannot be denied they are vacillating midway between this point and the knee. It can no longer be said with the epigrammatist that morality covers a multitude of shins.

Maybe the reformers have some reason for their alarm. Perhaps they believe that skirts, the least static article in the feminine wardrobe, will go up instead of coming down. That would, indeed, be truly alarming, but viewing the whole history of fashion from the days of the flowing robes of the Greeks down to present day modes, has any really salaciously indecent costume ever been accepted by any but a small minority of women? I do not think so.

Keeping Company

Many of my sentimental correspondents write to me for advice concerning the young men with whom they are "keeping company" or with whom they have "dates." These are the phrases to make the blood boil and the eye see red. And a monument should be erected to him who could effectively wipe them out of the language.

A reader, however, observes with perspicacity that the words "keeping company" are not nearly so bad, in effect, as the act itself. "Keeping company," he declares, is in reality a sort of trial engagement which in many cases does not, as most engagements are supposed to, terminate in marriage. A girl "keeps company" with a young man to the exclusion of all other desirable males. Like trial marriage, it would tend to work out more to the disadvantage of the woman than to the man.

Let's not "keep company" then—actually or verbally. And don't let's make "dates"—or break them, either. Engagements—not the trial kind—and appointments are much better.

Letters to the Editor of the Woman's Page

Address all communications to M'LISS, care of the Evening Ledger. Write on one side of the paper only.

Dear M'LISS—Being a constant reader of your valuable column, I wish to say a few words on smoking, the subject being raised by your article of a few days ago.

What it is my desire to point out is this: that girls under 21, who have the habit of smoking, do it mostly in conjunction with drinking and merely with an effort of attempting to be smart. Smoking is, in itself, to all visible effects, a harmless enough habit and there is no reason why any girl 21 or over (or at least those who have sufficient sense to know what they are doing) should not indulge in cigarettes or cigars if they like. The line should be drawn at pipes and chewing tobacco, however, don't you think so?

One thing that should be emphasized in your daily talk is the growing prevalence among the girls just out of school (with nothing to do in the afternoon or evening except to go to the cafes or the movies; who need not arise from their beauty sleep until noon unless they want to) to make a practice of hanging around the waiting rooms of the hotels, stations and department stores. They wait to pick up those unfortunate men to whom they may or may not have been introduced.

Not one in 50 of these girls will go downstairs for a dance (or upstairs as the case may be) without drinking a cocktail. In fact they drink infrequently less than half a dozen at a rate that shocks even a callous man.

Borrowing ten cents from their temporary protector they phone home an excuse for their absence from dinner, the same being another item checked up to the profit and loss account. By midnight, so I'm told, the young girl is usually drunk. Exaggeration is not my forte, so if you don't believe me go down some night and take a peek for yourself.

CONSTANT READER.

Dear M'LISS—Can you recommend a remedy for the removal of hair on the upper lip? I use no creams at all for my face, and yet it is becoming noticeable. I shall be grateful for your kindness.

Electrolysis, I am told, is the only method by which hair can be removed permanently. It is a bit painful, however, and should you decide to submit yourself to it, be sure that only an expert wields the needle.

A woman whom I know has been very successful in bleaching the hair on her upper lip and discouraging its growth by nightly applications of peroxide of hydrogen, three parts, and household ammonia, one part. The ammonia, it seems to me, would be very harsh to the skin, although she tells me it has not had any bad effect on hers. Depilatories will remove the hair temporarily, but in the end only tend to make it return thicker and blacker.

Dear M'LISS—I was pleased to read your most interesting article on the study of the Spanish language, which appeared about two weeks ago.

As I have been studying the language myself for two years I am quite anxious to find an opportunity to use it. I infer from your article that you are acquainted with firms, both in this country and in South America, who are anxious to secure capable parties to handle their Spanish correspondence.

I would be very much pleased to have you inform me of the names of some of these firms, so that I may take the matter up direct, with the hope of securing a position in that capacity.

I might add that I am an expert stenographer and typewriter, having engaged in that line of work for upwards of six years. I wish to thank you in advance for anything you may be able to do for me. Very sincerely yours, GORDON C. TRUE.

Your query will be answered in the manner you request, in several days.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS



SPRING SUGGESTIONS IN HATS AND NECKWEAR

WITH the first openings of the spring a woman's interest in the new millinery and neckwear begins to grow. In fact, a mere man suggests that even the openings are temporary. One of the first models is the dainty flowered toque which is shown in today's illustration. It is entirely fashioned of scarlet poppies, finished with a single upstanding loop of satin-striped gauze ribbon of the same brilliant shade. The price is \$10. The same model comes in other color combinations, such as yellow poppies, violets, roses, pinks, etc., at the same price.

A maline neck ruff gives softness to the youthful face and the style shown is made of white maline, veiled with black. Tiny satin bows on either side of the front give charm. This comes in waterproof material in any color combination at \$1.75.

The central figure wears a new San Toy tailored hat. Open satin faces the upper and black covers the lower side of the brim. A chic ornament of blue and jet is the sole trimming, and it sells for \$7.50. The collar worn by the same model is double, with simulated border and hand-embroidered dots. The price is \$1.

A dressy hat of black maline shows the tendencies for fancy hats which are so noticeable on some of the new models. The crown is shirred and the brim is edged with jet. The veined bow is also jet-trimmed. Price \$8.

Full particulars as to where these articles may be bought will be supplied by the Editor of the Woman's Page, EVENING LEDGER, 608 Chestnut street. The request must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and must mention the date on which the article appeared.

WHY WE SHOULD MODIFY BABY'S MILK AND HOW TO DO IT

By WILLIAM A. BRADY, M. D.

THE average constituency of human milk and of cow's milk is about this:

Human Milk: Fat 4.00 per cent, 4.99 per cent, Sugar 7.00 per cent, 4.75 per cent, Protein 1.50 per cent, 3.50 per cent, Mineral 0.25 per cent, 0.70 per cent.

Thus they are about the same in quantity of fat; human milk contains considerably more milk sugar than cow's milk, and less than half as much protein (albumin, casein). The difference in mineral salts is negligible.

Now when it is necessary to substitute an artificial food for a baby's natural food, cow's milk makes the nearest known imitation. But in order to make cow's milk still more like human milk, we dilute the milk, thus reducing the strength of protein, then we add milk sugar and possibly fresh cream to bring the other essentials up to approximate the proportions of fat and sugar in human milk.

One of the most practical ways of modifying milk to render it suitable for a baby is by taking a jar of pure milk, preferably in a little dipper holding just one ounce, and easily inserted in a milk jar without disturbing the lower layers of the milk.

This fresh upper milk contains about 10 per cent. fat. For a very young baby, the food should contain only about 2 or 3 per cent. fat, which is as much as can be digested at first. In order to convert 10 per cent. milk (the upper milk) into 2 per cent. milk, you mix one part milk with four parts water, as any arithmetician will tell you. So let us put it in table form:

Remove the upper third (about nine ounces from a quart jar) of certified milk which has stood for four hours in a cold place. (Use a Chapin milk dipper, never a tube and mouth suction.)

Of the upper milk take four ounces. Of milk and sugar take one and one-half ounces (three tablespoonsful). Of water (boiled) or distilled water or barley water take enough to make the whole mixture measure 20 ounces.

Week by week the strength of the food may be increased by using one more ounce of the upper milk, and one less ounce of water or diluent. But keep adding the milk sugar in the same proportions. When made up the day's supply of food should be kept in a covered or sealed vessel in a cold place, stirred up when a bottle is to be filled, and the bottle warmed before feeding.

For a baby three or four months old twice as much of all ingredients should be used for a day's supply, and it would be proper to start in at a little higher strength of upper milk in the mixture, say 5 or 10 ounces in the 40-ounce mixture.

From the amounts of protein in human and cow's milk it is quite obvious that dilution is necessary until the baby's digestion is capable of caring for so much protein.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Fast Living, Gas, Insomnia. Does gas cause insomnia? I retire about 10, but wake around 3 a. m. and sleep little afterward. I have unpleasant dreams. Think I have abused myself by eating too fast.

Answer—And too much. Hasty eating and overeating are the commonest causes of digestive disturbances, gas, auto-intoxication, and all the symptoms that condition covers. That is what the Bread and Milk Club is for—to rest the metabolism Monday. Better join. All you have to do is limit yourself to bread or crackers and milk all day Monday of each week—some milk and a cracker or bit of bread every two or two and one-half hours from early morn till bedtime.

RICHMOND MADE "BOSS" Parish Elects Suspended Rector Director and Criticizes Bishop

The Rev. George Chalmers Richmond is enabled today to discharge some of his duties as rector, despite his suspension by Bishop Rhinelander, as the result of action taken by 40 members of St. John's Episcopal Church, of 34 and Brown streets.

The churchmen met in the Parish House last night and elected Mr. Richmond their "Director of Parish Affairs." Under this head, Mr. Richmond will retain many of his former powers as rector of the church.

By a unanimous vote the congregation also severely criticized Bishop Rhinelander and demanded his resignation.

Robert L. Keene presided at the meeting and Charles Raymond acted as secretary. Every one present was intensely loyal to Mr. Richmond.

"If it comes to the worst," said Mr. Richmond after the meeting, "St. John's congregation will, if wishes, leave the Episcopal Church and go into another communion."

Club Meeting The current events section of the Woman's Club of Morton and Rutledge will meet tomorrow afternoon at 2 to 3 o'clock. At 3 o'clock there will be a stated meeting and entertainment by the Junior department. Miss Jean Lewis Beatty will be the chairman.

'DIRECT ACTION URGED AGAINST MARIE-ODILE'

National Hibernian Advocates 'Masculine' Method if Protests Fail

The National Hibernian in its issue appearing today has an editorial headed with this caption: "Marie-Odile—A Play That Is an Insult to All Catholics." It is as follows:

"Members of our order throughout the country will be made familiar with the details of the immoral and sacrilegious play called 'Marie-Odile.' It deserves the most vigorous treatment by the members of the A. O. H. Where protests are not efficacious when made to the management or to the police authorities, the more direct and masculine methods which Irish Catholics have used in similar circumstances may be used with perfect propriety and successful results.

"The play is a low species, portraying the weaker side of human nature and frankly sordid and indifferently acted. Its only appeal to the attention of the public is its flaunting insult to the Catholic faith and its association of the most sacred and holy symbols of the Church with an unlawful lust.

"The plot simply is built around a novice in a Rhine convent during the Franco-Prussian War, who, thinking that a German Uhlans is Saint Michael, is seduced under the spell of the fantastic delusion. The perversion of the artistic sense and the callous degradation of the sacred mysteries of an entire religion are offensive to the last degree.

"The play is written by a dramatist calloused to the finer feelings and illustrates the coarser side of the German character. German Catholics would be defending their racial character and their Church by co-operating with the members of our order in our protests. But we have driven plays such as this from the American stage unaided in other days, and we are sufficiently powerful to cause the withdrawal of this vicious insult to Catholicism from the sight of decent men and women."

WILLS PROBATED

Several Estates Disposed of in Private Bequests

Wills probated today were those of George B. Dreizer, 125 Diamond street, \$15,000 in private bequests; Ellen J. Boon Boothby, Delaware County, \$13,000; Kathryn R. Jones, 1109 Spruce street, \$10,000; Joseph Mahaffy, 215 South 10th street, \$8,100; Thomas Muldoon, 720 Beach street, \$7,200; Elizabeth H. Duffield, 121 North 33d street, \$6,800; Margaret J. Harding, 918 North 5th street, \$4,600; William P. D. Leary, Samaritan Hospital, \$3,000; John J. Vallin, 1714 Catharine street, \$2,400; Margaret D. Frye, Polyclinic Hospital, \$2,350, and Benjamin F. Haddock, 215 North 10th street, \$2,000.

The personality of the estate of Henry F. Cooper has been appraised at \$35,019.95; Annie F. Melville, \$65,491.15; Andrew McBride, \$57,919.88; Elizabeth J. Hurst, \$47,876.41, and Angelo De Lorenzo, \$21,218.

GRONE HEADS Y. M. C. A.

West Branch Elects Officers and Makes Plans for Banquet

George H. Grone, who is prominent in railroad circles and active in West Philadelphia religious life, has been chosen head of West Branch Y. M. C. A. Mr. Grone was assistant purchasing agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad for years, and was intimately identified with P. R. R. Y. M. C. A. work.

Other officers elected were: Dr. William Evans, vice chairman; J. Clifton Buck, treasurer; Victor G. Reed, assistant treasurer; and E. E. Wildman, recording secretary. Leonard J. Curry was promoted from acting house manager to house manager, and Frank C. Shinn was made promoter of service.

Frivolity of Schoolgirls

A teacher in another town has come right out and denounced the schoolgirl who dabs her nose with powder, even uses rouge and indulges in the toilette frivolities of her seniors.

This teacher declares that half the inefficiency of our schools is due to the fact that such evils are permitted.

If the parents do not see the necessity for correcting this hindrance to education then the school authorities should prescribe a rule prohibiting such juvenile nonsense.

Gingerisms

He grafts best where graft lasts. A good line needs no push. A trained nurse lightens the purse.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS

Making Good Coffee

Nothing is so important to the success of the dinner as good coffee. We have a wide variety of styles of coffee pots and percolators—from the newest, all glass percolators, to the ordinary tin coffee pot, to which some people still cling. We have imported French coffee beans, and domestic coffee beans. Let us suit your requirements in a coffee pot.

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LONG SKIRTS? POOH! SAY GIRLS OF MRS. EDISON'S DRESS CODE

Reforms Suggested Would Start Real War, Declare Some Who Ridicule Effort to Change Styles

THE Gods of Style—not war this time—have been loosed.

Not by international forces, but by the statements of Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, wife of the Wizard of Orange, of reforms in the lengthening of midday's skirts so that they come within three or four inches of the ground, instead of eight or ten.

Mrs. Edison said that skirt dressers like little girls and that no skirt should be more than four inches from the ground to be in good taste. She also denounced the extreme low-neck gowns, declaring that men do not like such follow fashion regardless of whether it is fitting or becoming.

She and society women have launched a campaign to instill into the young women of Orange the necessity of dressing sanely and shunning extremes.

Her dress reform is received with laughter and scorn by Philadelphia aesthetes and women who declare that she does not know what she is talking about if she attempts to teach other women how to dress.

"Skirts three inches from the ground! Why she is crazy!" said Miss Julia Poljack, 326 North Broad street, while discussing Mrs. Edison's interview today in the suit department of a department store. "Why, a woman with her skirt that long looks as much out of style as sauer kraut. I myself do not believe in sauer kraut or anything that savors of the vulgar. I do think, though, that when a woman or a girl wears the high boots and a short skirt from six to eight inches or looks stylish."

"I do agree with her that some women do follow style blindly and wear things that are not becoming," she added, "but I also think she is going to extremes herself when she says no skirt should be more than four inches from the ground."

Miss Lola Gillingham, 425 North 3d street, who is in the skirt department of the same store, holds that if Mrs. Edison

What Philadelphia Shop Girls Think of Mrs. Edison's Dress Reform

"Poo! Skirts three inches from the ground! I'd like to know what business it is of her how other people dress."

"We'll have a fight worse than the European war on our hands if we attempt to force people to dress the way we want them."

"Skirts eight inches from the ground, when worn with high boots, are all right. They are lots better than the narrow, long skirts that showed the calf in back and the shin in front at every step."

"Women only wear such 'things'—extreme things—because this is a material world."

tries to start a dress reform and make women wear what she thinks is proper there will be a worse war than the one across the newsy rich or the 'cheap' Mrs. Edison must be a second Helen Green herself if she wants other women to dress in such long skirts.

"I think Mrs. Edison is talking a lot about things that do not concern her," she said. "I know from what people here they will have, regardless of what others think. I will grant that some women are because their minds are so befuddled that they have no idea of what is proper in clothing. The great middle class of the nation is not going to extremes. It is from the newsy rich or the 'cheap' girl who wants to try to set the styles."

Miss Gillingham says that this is a material world, and that the women have been actually forced to dress as they do to compete with young women whom their husbands admire.

From still another source comes an opinion of Mrs. Edison's campaign. This is from Mrs. George A. Pierod, chairman of the Suffrage party of Philadelphia, who says if women had the vote they would not have time to worry about "extreme styles, powdering their noses and showing their ankles." She also holds that when women get the vote other women like Mrs. Edison and her coworkers will not have time or cause to worry about their foolish sisters; that women will be actually remade when allowed the ballot. She is of the opinion that women should think more about enfranchising their sisters than about the clothes they wear.

"SALOME" GOWN BRINGS \$50

Julia Marlowe's Wig Sold for \$10, Sothern's Dunderreary Go for \$1

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—The transparent brown film, in which Julia Marlowe appeared as "Salome" before King Herod, in John the Baptist, went for \$50 in the auction sale of Sothern-Marlowe effects, which continued today. As in the case of Miss Marlowe's pink tights, the name of the purchaser was not made public.

The action sale's hair goods department had a good day, when Miss Marlowe's golden wig went for \$10 and Sothern's Dunderreary whiskers sold for \$1.

It used to be a husband's fate to tell his wife if her hat was straight. He's free from this, you will allow. For hats are sported slantwise now.

"My petticoat—say, does it show?" Was once the question, as you know. Hub has no bother on that score. For petticoats are worn no more.

And now if woman gives the sack to gowns that button up the back. The teasing spectacle we'll see. Of man almost entirely free. —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Advertisement for Milk Stocking, \$1.50 to \$3.00. From Mills to You! The highest grade women's Milk Stocking, saving in price to you—made possible by the all-American jobber and retailer, KELLEY HATFIELD & CO., 1332 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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MILLIE AND HER MILLIONS

Comic strip titled 'MILLIE AND HER MILLIONS'. Panel 1: 'BY JOVE! THERE'S NOTHING SUITS ME BETTER THAN A COMFORTABLE CHAIR AND A GOOD BOOK.' Panel 2: 'YES, MILLIE, THIS LITTLE BOOK IS A COLLECTION OF POEMS I WROTE MYSELF.' Panel 3: 'OH, AUNT, HOW CLEVER OF YOU.' Panel 4: 'FRIENDS HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO ADMIRE THEM VERY MUCH.' Panel 5: 'YOU MUST LET ME READ THEM, AUNT.' Panel 6: 'WHEW! I HOPE SHE WON'T ASK ME TO READ THEM.' Panel 7: 'I'LL READ THEM ALOUD TO YOU, MILLIE. BUT WHERE'S MONTY? I'D LIKE HIM TO HEAR THEM TOO.' Panel 8: 'WELL GO AND GET HIM.' Panel 9: 'THIS IS WHERE IM AMONGST THE MISSING.' Panel 10: 'I THOUGHT HE WAS IN HERE.' Panel 11: 'MOST EXTRAORDINARY SO DID I.'