

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

A Feminine Trick.

A feminine trick, very common among foreigners at Rome, Italy, is described as follows: A lady goes to a milliner's and looks over her stock of bonnets. She selects those which she thinks will suit her, and begs the milliner to send them to her the following morning that she may try them on at home and select the one which suits her. The poor milliner consents. At 9 o'clock she sends the bonnets. The lady is not up. Will the "young woman" call again a little later? The "young woman" consents to leave the bonnets until 3 o'clock. What does my lady do then? She takes the bonnet she likes best to a little working milliner in a back shop of a back street, and bids her make one exactly like the model she leaves with her until half-past 2 o'clock, when she takes it back to the grand milliner, saying that she is very sorry, but none of them "suit her."

Where Plump Wives are in Demand.

Plumpness, such as would be considered exuberant in the cold and critical north of Europe, constitutes the popular ideal of female beauty in the regency of Tunis. Among marriageable young ladies of that province slenderness of form and delicacy of proportion are regarded with justifiable aversion, as disqualifications for the wedded state. The fatter a maiden the better is her chance of making a good and early match. To be abnormally obese is to be certain of drawing a prize in the matrimonial market, and the loveliest litherness remains unwooed, while homely corpulence can pick and choose from among a throng of eligible suitors. How deep a root this predilection for capacious charms has struck in the Tunisian manly bosom may be gathered from the fact that widowers, desirous to marry again, should they haply, moved by family or pecuniary considerations, select a bride whose dimensions are reported to fall something short of those to which their previous experiences had accustomed them, are wonted to send the "dear departed's" girdle and bracelet to the parents of their too exiguous betrothed. On receipt of these articles, conveying a delicate hint that it might be expedient to make up for nature's shortcomings by some judicious treatment, the bride's papa and mama proceed to fatten her with assiduity and dispatch. For some weeks she leads the life of a Strassburg goose, and when she has attained the necessary goodly proportions her nuptials are celebrated to the entire satisfaction of everybody concerned in them.

A Woman's Age.

A case has just been decided before the appeal court at Metz, which shows how a lady's age is a matter entirely within her own control. Fraulein Catherine Mahl was engaged to a desirable partner to whom she had imprudently declared her age at six years less than it really was. As soon as the moment arrived for producing the certificate of birth, she was aware that her little deception would be discovered, and she feared that the match would be broken off. She, therefore, took the liberty of altering the official document so as to make it correspond with the statement already made. The ceremony took place, and the husband was duly united to a lady whom he believed to be quite a jeune ingenue. Unfortunately the certificate, in passing through some office, happened to be minutely examined by one of the clerks. The bride was charged with the offense of falsifying a public document, and condemned to spend, if not her honeymoon, at least three of the first months of her married life in prison. She had the courage to appeal from the sentence, and cause the case to be argued out before the court of Metz, which reversed the decision of the inferior tribunal, and acquitted the lady on the ground that she did not intend to commit an illegal act, but had been actuated only by "female vanity."

Fashion Notes.

Fans grow larger.
Jerseys are revived.
Shaded fans are much used.
The long basque is moribund.
Tailor-made dresses grow in favor.
Long faces look best with low coiffures.
Traveling costumes are made very short.
Tall women should not wear high coiffures.
Heliotrope is revived as a summer color in Paris.
Chuddah squares are the favorite summer shawls.
Very little jewelry should be worn with summer toilets.
A new device for a lace pin is a cow jumping over the moon.
Both high and low coiffures are worn, but low ones are preferred.
White dresses of soft, crushable silk are worn more than ever.
Sage green striped tweed is a novelty fabric for traveling wear.

Navy blue flannel is on the list of popular materials for traveling suits.

The wide belt and suspended pocket are indispensable for a traveling outfit. Cretone and Watteau fans take the precedence of Japanese fans this summer.

Shaded grays, browns, and garnets are the colors worn by older women this season.

The fashionable dust cloak takes the form of the ulster or the Mother Hubbard cloak.

Black velvet bracelets, fastened by tiny buckles of old French paste, are again fashionably worn with delicate evening dresses.

Long lace mittens in black, white, cream, or the colors of the costume are worn with sleeves of short or medium length.

The popular balayouse is of muslin, embroidered in the designs of Carrick-macross lace, and is used laid flat inside the skirt.

Jersey webbing, sometimes called stockinet, resembles the elastic texture of knitted work, and is used for the new Jersey basques.

Mauve-tinted Spanish lace bonnets are trimmed with short ostrich tips, powdered with gold, and pale pink roses held by large gold buckles set with pearls.

The designs of some of the new brocade gowns, which come in colors of lilac, ciel-blue, corn and sea-shell pink, are outlined with fine threads of silver and gold.

Spanish jewelry showing large leaves and flowers tinted in colors of pale pink and emerald green and studded with fine sparkling gems is just now in great demand.

The small old-fashioned shawls of white china crape embroidered with heavy silk floss in each corner, and edged with white nettled silk fringe, are again in vogue.

Pretty breakfast caps are composed of small squares of mull, edged with lace ruffles.

Beige, kersey, cheviot, flannels and lady cloths are all used for traveling costumes.

A novelty for bonnet strings is tubular ribbon, woven double without any visible seam.

Shoulder capes and large mantles of net chenille are the wraps of high ceremony for summer wear.

The most fashionable low coiffure is broad, describing a figure 8 horizontally in the nape of the neck.

The Ways of Barbers.

To any one who is familiar with the barber shops of some of the European countries the difference in manner must seem odd. The Parisian barber, though perhaps a trifle more civil than the American or Americanized, is still very quick and curt in his ways, just as the Parisian waiter is; and in the huge barber shops of London, conducted on a mammoth scale which is unknown here—such as the establishment in Tichborne street, employing in various seasons of the year from thirty to sixty men—Chesterfieldian manners are hardly to be expected. But the German, Austrian and Italian shops afford amusing contrasts to those of New York. What American who has been in Germany has not been diverted by the reverent attitude of the barber and by the profound bow and "obedient servant" (gehorsamer diener) with which he signals the conclusion of his task? The insinuating, persuasive ways of Italian "artists" and the delightful ingenuity with which they "stick" foreigners with all sorts of costly and useless toilet articles at absurd prices are known to every traveler. But perhaps tonsorial snavity reaches its sublimest heights in the two gay Austrian capitals, Vienna and Pesth. There, as the customer enters, instead of meeting with a silent and indifferent stare, and a rude, loud "Next!" shouted out in a stentorian tone, a perfect chorus of soft and subdued voices greets him with a cheerful "Guten morgen, ergebener diener!" (Most devoted servant), and "Meine hochachtung!" (My highest esteem). It is inexpressibly comical to hear the knights of the razor mechanically sing out all together these three exclamations one after another as if they had learned them by rote, and to hear the similar chorus of ejaculations uttered in the same sing-song, mechanical voice at the customer's exit of "Meine complimente!" (My compliments!) "Ich habe die ehre!" (I have the honor!) "Ich empfehle mich!" (I commend myself!) etc., to all of which the lofty client only responds with a short "Guten tag" or a slight touch of the hat. The ineffable and silent contempt with which the aristocratic officer, glittering with gold braid and living on \$20 a month, clicks his silver spurs as he enters and leaves the shop without deigning even a nod or reply to all this outburst of extravagant civility, affords a striking illustration of the continental manner of treating the luckless operator on hirsute chins.—*New York Herald.*

ASSASSINATION OF RULERS.

A Historical Resume of Successful and Unsuccessful Attempts on Life.

It is a curious fact that no king of England or emperor of Germany has ever fallen a victim to an assassin, although several attempts have been made on the present monarchs of these countries. There are murders enough of a very brutal sort on record in English history of both actual occupants of the throne and heirs to it, but they were all done openly before the world, as if the perpetrators scorned to conceal their deeds, or as if they felt that they had the right to perform summary execution. The only case in English history in which the really guilty party sought concealment is the murder of the two young princes in the Tower of London, the circumstances of which have been told to every visitor. Several popes have fallen victims to the daggers of assassins, and Henry of Navarre, one of France's ablest monarchs, met the same fate. The killing of Murat by Charlotte Corday was also an assassination in the true sense of the word. Russia has the longest record of crimes to show so far, but the United States seems to be in a fair way of taking at least an undisputed second place. The attempts at assassination have been particularly numerous during the past third of a century, or since the use of firearms and the scientific use of gunpowder have been perfected. A list of these, successful and unsuccessful, is at this time particularly interesting:

1848—November 26—The life of the Duke of Modena was attempted.

1849—June 21—The Crown Prince of Prussia was attacked at Minden.

1851—May 22—Sefelouque, a workman, shot at Frederick William IV., king of Prussia, and broke his forearm.

1850—June 28—Robert Pate, an ex-lieutenant in the army, attempted to assassinate Queen Victoria.

1852—September 24—An infernal machine was found at Marseilles, with which it had been intended to destroy Napoleon III.

1853—February 18—The Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria was grievously wounded in the head while walking on the ramparts at Vienna by a Hungarian tailor named Libzens.

1853—April 16—An attempt on the life of Victor Emmanuel was reported to the Italian Chamber.

1853—July 5—An attempt was made to kill Napoleon III. as he was entering the Opera Comique.

1855—March 20—Ferdinand Charles III, Duke of Parma, was killed by an unknown man, who stabbed him in the abdomen.

1855—April 28—Napoleon III. was fired on at the Champs Elysees by Giovanni Pianeri.

1856—April 28—Raymond Fuentes was arrested in the act of firing on Isabella, queen of Spain.

1856—December 8—Agostino Milano, a soldier, stabbed Ferdinand III. of Naples, with his bayonet.

1857—August 7—Napoleon III. again. Bareoletti, Gibaldi and Grillo were sentenced to death for coming from London to assassinate him.

1858—January 14—Napoleon III. for the fifth time. Orsini and his associates threw fulminating bombs at him as he was on his way to the opera.

1861—July 14—King William of Prussia was for the first time shot at by Oscar Becker, a student, at Baden-Baden. Becker fired twice at him but missed him.

1862—December 18—A student named Dossios fired a pistol at Queen Amalia, of Greece (Princess of Oldenburg), at Athens.

1863—December 24—Four more conspirators from London against the life of Napoleon III. were arrested at Paris.

1865—April 14—President Lincoln was shot by J. Wilkes Booth.

1866—April 6—A Russian named Kavarsoff attempted Czar Alexander's life at St. Petersburg. He was foiled by a peasant, who was ennobled for the deed.

1867—The czar's life was again attempted on June 6, during the great exposition, at a review in the Bois de Boulogne, at Paris.

1867—June 19—Maximilian shot.

1868—June 10—Prince Michael, of Serbia, was killed by the brothers Radwarowitch.

1871—The life of Anadenus, then newly king of Spain, was attempted.

1872—August—Colonel Gutierrez assassinated President Balta, of the republic of Peru.

1873—January 1—President Morales, of Bolivia, was assassinated.

1875—August—President Garcia Meno, of Ecuador, was assassinated.

1876—Sultan Abdul-Aziz killed in his palace by order of his ministers, June 5.

1877—June—President Gill, of Paraguay, was assassinated by Commodore Molas.

1878—May 11—The Emperor William, of Germany, was shot at again, this time by Emile Henri Max Hoedel, alias Lehmann, the Socialist. Lehmann fired three shots at the emperor, who was returning from a drive with the Grand Duchess of Baden, but missed him.

1878—June 2—Emperor William shot at by Dr. Nobling while out riding.

He received about thirty small shot in the neck and face.

1879—April 14—Attempted assassination of the czar at St. Petersburg by one Sologejew. He was executed May 9.

1879—December 1—The assassination of the czar attempted by a mine under a train near Moscow.

1879—December 30—The king of Spain was shot at while driving with the queen.

1880—February 17—Attempt to kill the royal family of Russia by blowing up the Winter palace. Eight soldiers were killed and forty-five wounded.

1881—March 13—The Czar Alexander II., killed by a bomb.

How to Catch a Polar Bear.

"I do so pity those men on the Rodgers," remarked Mrs. Max, passing the Major the honey, which he always insisted upon having with his rice cakes.

"Yes, indeed," replied the Major, who was a trifle cynical that morning, having burned his mouth with coffee. "Yes, indeed, my dear, the life of an Arctic explorer must be hard. They are so isolated from the world. Just imagine, if you can, the horror of living for three years out of the dust and wind and fog and rain of our glorious climate; of not meeting all that time the man at your club who thinks the oftener a story is told the better it is; of being without the consolation afforded you by the bustled stock operator who knows you are glad of an opportunity to lend him a twenty; of being where millinery and Japanese decoration stores do not daily entrap one's wife; of being—"

"Why, Major, how you do talk! I was only thinking of the horrid things the Rodgers' crew will have to do to get their bear steaks."

"How's that?" asked the Major, instantly interested over the object of steaks, which he holds of much greater importance than the Irish land troubles.

"What I know about it," resumed Mrs. Max, "I read in a fashion paper, and it ought to be true."

"It certainly ought to be, Mrs. Max, if only on account of its old age."

"Well, the article said," continued Mrs. Max, pretending to ignore the Major's slur on her favorite reading, "that Arctic explorers, when they want to kill a polar bear, plant a big knife in the ice with the blade sticking up. They daub the blade with blood, and the bear comes along and licks it and cuts his tongue. It is so cold that he doesn't feel the cut, but, tasting his own blood, continues to lick the knife until his tongue is all frayed, and he bleeds to death. Isn't it dreadful?"

"Quiet your fears, my dear," said the Major when his wife had finished. "That is the way they killed the bear when that story was first published, but in the last twenty years an improvement has been made, which I will tell you about, if you will kindly give me just a drop more of coffee, with cold milk, this time. The way the thing is done now is as follows: When Captain Berry, of the Rodgers, wants a polar bear for dinner, he gives a midshipman a copper bed spring and a chunk of salt pork. The midshipman compresses the spring perfectly flat, wrapping the pork around it tight, and holds it so until it freezes solid. Then the frozen pork, stuffed with the bed spring, is thrown out to the nearest iceberg, where it is promptly swallowed by a polar bear. When the heat of the bear's stomach thaws out the pork it releases the spring, which flies out, and the bear soon dies from a pain in his side."

"Major," said Mrs. Max, with much warmth, "I don't believe that story is true."

"No, my dear, and you won't, until, in a few years, you see it in some fashion paper, and then you will swear by it."

Flower Farming.

All the natural scents now used in this country are imported at high prices, but within a year the cultivation of flowers for perfumery has been started in Santa Barbara and Alameda counties, California, and as the climate of that State is well adapted to the raising of flowers, there is a good prospect that a large share of the scents consumed in this country will soon be produced at home. In Europe 150,000 gallons of handkerchief perfume are annually distilled. The profits of flower farming in some portions of the Old World are shown in the following figures: An acre of jasmine plants, 80,000 in number, will produce 5,000 pounds of flowers, valued at \$1,250; an acre of rose trees, 10,000 in number, will yield 2,000 pounds of flowers, worth \$375; 300 orange trees growing on an acre will yield, at ten years of age, 2,000 pounds of flowers, valued at \$220; an acre of violets, producing 1,600 pounds of flowers, is worth \$800; an acre of acacia trees of 360 will, at three years of age, yield 900 pounds of flowers, worth \$450; an acre of geranium plants will yield something over 2,000 ounces of distilled attar worth \$4,000; an acre of lavender, giving over 3,500 pounds of flowers for distillation, will yield a value of \$1,500.

Burglars are evidently great railroad speculators, because we always hear of somebody being on their track

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Yusuf Arbecly, who, with his wife and six sons, came to this country from Damascus, Syria, nearly three years ago, is delighted with the change. He explains that more of his countrymen do not follow his example because the Turkish government not only discourages emigration but takes measures to prevent it.

The United States geological corps has in charge the first census of the Indians ever taken in this country. The work was to be made an important part of the present census and was placed in charge of Major Powell of the survey. The work was to be accomplished under the direction of special agents, four in number, sent out by Major Powell. The work has been in progress nearly a year, and it will take fully a year longer to complete it.

Horsewhipping is an expensive luxury in England. A noble marquis has been fined \$2,500 and costs and bound over to keep the peace for a year for lashing another noble lord, who had been so inconsiderate and imprudent as to abduct the noble marquis' wife. Two of the noble marquis' friends who took undue interest in the sport were also fined. In fact everybody concerned seems to have been heavily mulcted except the noble lord who got the noble lady into trouble.

An interesting contribution to the literature of suicide is made in a pamphlet recently published in Berlin. The suicidal mania is spreading so rapidly in the German capital that the authorities are earnestly considering in what manner it can best be checked. The pamphlet above referred to states that in the years from 1875 to 1878, 280 cases of suicide were registered per million inhabitants in Berlin, 285 in Vienna, 450 in Leipzig and only eighty-five in London. Paris, with 400 suicides, nearly approaches the startling figure of Leipzig.

The department of agriculture at Washington from July 1, 1877, to June 30, 1881, inclusive, has published 7,473 pages of books and pamphlets, more or less valuable. The number of these printed was 2,368,525, and the total pages printed were 858,381,675. Taking the population of the United States at 50,000,000, here are nearly eighteen pages of printed information for every man, woman and child in the land. Nor is this all. The department during the same period has distributed 4,432,878 packages of seeds and 673,832 valuable plants.

Archer, the jockey who won the Derby for Mr. Lorillard, is quite a character in England. In 1876 he is said to have won \$60,000 professionally. In 1875 he won 172 races; in 1876 he won 207; in 1877, 218; in 1878, 207; in 1879, 197; and in 1880, 120. He is petted like a prima donna, and is the companion of sporting lords. He travels from one race meeting to another in a first-class carriage, has only to ride his appointed horse, and keeps a valet to assist him in changing his dress. His yearly income is greater than that of a prime minister.

A patriotic correspondent quotes the old statement that Queen Victoria is the only sovereign on whose dominions the sun never sets, and patriotically proceeds to show that the sun never sets on the possessions of the United States; that when the sun is about expiring on the confines of Behring's sea it is already beaming brightly in Maine and in the eastern part of that State is an hour high. From the farthest eastern part of our country, at Eastport, Maine, to the farthest end of the Aleutian isles the distance is 197 degrees of longitude, or seventeen more than half way around the globe.

The arrivals of emigrants at Castle Garden, New York, during the first half of this year have been unprecedentedly large. The total arrivals since January 1 have been 243,925—an increase of 60,000 over the same period last year. The re-nationalities represented by the arrivals are: Germany, 24,142; Sweden, 7,209; England, 5,660; Austria, 3,300; Norway, 2,995; Scotland, 2,667; Switzerland, 1,405; Italy, 1,239; Denmark, 1,159; Holland, 1,135; Poland, 621; Russia, 604; Bohemia, 515; France, 360; Hungary, 305; Belgium, 136; Wales, 84; Spain, 27; other countries, 63.

Following are some interesting and instructive figures given in connection with the workings of the United States postoffice department: One letter out of every 300 sent is unclaimed in the office to which it goes. One letter in 283 sent turns up at the dead letter office. One letter out of every 3,100 sent is held for postage at the office of mailing—and this amounts to near 300,000 in a year. More than 200,000 letters every year are insufficiently addressed. Ten thousand letters this year bear no superscription whatever, and these letters often contain remittances of great

value. More than 200,000 foreign letters fail to reach the persons to whom they are addressed.

An astronomer says that the earth meets 50,000,000 of comets, more or less, every year. Almost all of them are ignited by the rapid passage through our atmosphere, and become shooting stars. Now and then one does not ignite, and strikes the earth. These are called meteoric stones, of which a very large portion is in the Smithsonian institution. The universe is full of them. He adds that it is held by some astronomers that the result which would follow, should a comet strike the earth—a large comet—would be to resolve both bodies at once, by the concussion, into clouds of incandescent mist, or gaseous matter, a result which would be so sudden and instantaneous that the inhabitants of the earth would never know what had happened.

Great Britain has three agricultural schools, an English, Irish and Scotch, each self-supporting and costing not more than \$10,000 each a year; each is intended to train three classes of agricultural laborers—gardeners, small tenants and large farmers. Prussia spends two or three million dollars annually upon the state forests and farms. The farms of the state are rented to practical farmers who are bound by their leases to take pupils in agriculture, and to keep blooded stock for improving the breeds of the surrounding community, and to introduce such machinery on trial as is recommended by the agricultural minister of the crown. No seeds are distributed free, except in time of scarcity, but railroads have to carry free articles for exhibition at agricultural fairs. The highways are lined with fruit or other trees, and the government supervision of forests is strict.

The bridge disaster on the Morelos railroad in Mexico was a frightful calamity. The bridge gave way while a train was passing over it, and 214 officers and soldiers on the train were killed outright or roasted to death by the flames which burst over the wreck when 100 barrels of brandy, forming part of the freight, caught fire. Only sixty persons escaped alive, and of these forty were more or less seriously injured, many fatally. Efforts to rescue the imprisoned victims were useless, and the dead and living were consumed by the remorseless flames before the eyes of the survivors. The bridge was not only weakened by recent floods, but seems to have been imperfectly constructed by incompetent Mexican engineers. No such casualty has ever before occurred in Mexico, and the effect upon the ignorant and superstitious people undoubtedly will be to unreasonably prejudice them against railroad enterprises.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

A new species of wild horse has been discovered in Siberia, and has been named *Equus Przewalski*.

Platinum—in the language of Peru, "little silver,"—first discovered in South America, is the heaviest body in nature.

During the glacial period, the ice in America, latitude 44 degrees N., is supposed, from evidences known to scientists, to have been 6,000 feet deep.

Dividing the human body into a hundred parts, the head of the infant is 26 per cent., the body 40 and the legs 36. In the adult the head is 13, body 34 and legs 54.

Water is considered soft which contains less than 1-5000 part of its weight in saline ingredients; hard if it contains more than 1-4000, and mineral if more than 1-2000.

Phosphorescent paint, it is reported from Turin, mixed with printing ink, renders the letters luminous in the dark. A daily paper is to be published there with the luminous ink.

The crow is the most inveterate enemy of the singing birds of New England. Robbings, plovers, larks, and nearly all the birds of smaller size, fall victims to his ravenous appetite.

There is little or nothing known with certainty in regard to the invention of glass. Some of the oldest specimens are Egyptian, and are traced to about 1,500 before Christ (by some 2,300 B. C.). Transparent glass is believed to have been first used about 750 before the Christian era. The credit of the invention was given by the ancients to the Phoenicians. The story is a familiar one, of the Phœnician merchants who rested their cooking pots on blocks of natron (sub-carbonate of soda), and found glass produced by the union, under heat of the alkali and the sand on the shore.

A witty New York society woman was standing before Zola's greatly admired picture of Lot and his daughters, which was on exhibition in an art store on Fifth avenue. "Oh!" remarked a friend, "what do you suppose Lot thought when he beheld his poor wife turned to a pillar of salt?" "I suppose," replied our wit, with admirable gravity, "he thought how he could get himself—a fresh one."