

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Dress Hints.

The geometric style of dress—that is, cut up into triangles and stiff forms—is trying for any kind of figure, good or bad. Where the figure is handsome the nearer to the simplicity of a bit of fabric draped about it in soft, clinging lines the dress approaches the more becoming. Long lines from the shoulder to the foot give height; horizontal lines crossing the figures shorten the person. Short, stout women should avoid basques or any dress that makes a descriptive line about the hips; ruffles at the shoulder or hips that increase the bulk; waists or skirts of too great tightness, where looser draperies would give slenderness to the figure from not defining too clearly the lines. Tall women who are too slender, may use the horizontal lines with advantage, and increase the apparent size of arm or waist by a surrounding band. The double skirt is to them an advantage, where it makes the short woman too short.

Point-Tresse.

For two hundred years has the mystery of its fabulously fine intertracery been an impenetrable secret—a secret most prized, perhaps, among "forgotten arts."

For true point-tresse there must be snow white hair; alas! doubtless, "sorrow-blanching locks" were often pressed into tearful, loving service for this almost priceless "thing of beauty."

Hair of silvery sheen and silken quality, blended with exquisitely fine threads of flax, was the material from which patient fingers wrought out this gossamer device of shimmering arabesque.

Its genuineness could be established by exposure to the strongest sunlight when a peculiar, tremulous glistening was instantly developed. Another test was by fire; if authentically pure in every thread, a very perceptible frizzle was apparent, but never a blaze.

Occasionally in antiquarian collections one may chance upon a stray bit of this delicately fashioned lace. Among the fondly hoarded relics of a noble English family there is claimed to be a scrap of the dainty texture, the work of Margaret, Countess of Lennox, made during a weary imprisonment in the Tower. This memorial of affection, woven by eyes longed used to weeping, and with threads of her own white hair, was sent to her unhappy daughter-in-law, Mary Stuart, accompanied by words of pathetic greeting and assurances of unchanging sympathy.

—Bazar.

A Young Girl's Bed-Room.

A young girl's room may be furnished daintily and in exquisite taste at a small expense. The chief outlay will be for a bedstead. This cannot be constructed out of a pine board and bit of muslin, though many other things may be; but a handsome painted bedstead of blue and white is the first requirement for this room. The floor may be covered with plain, white matting, or of blue and white plaid, with a soft rug at the side of the bed; a dressing-case of white wood, covered with white silesia and muslin, can be made next, and a white wood washstand is also needed. This, like the dressing table, should have the under part entirely concealed by breadths of the silesia and muslin. They should be gathered slightly at the top, so that they will fall in graceful folds. The curtains should be of the muslin, draped, and the bed-spread and pillow-covers of the muslin over silesia also. The bed-spread should of course lie smoothly over the bed, and be tucked in at the end and sides, unlike the lace ones, which hang over. The muslin of the pillow covers may be shirred at the top and bottom, if you like the full look the shirring gives; they need, in this case, no edges, and in fact when put over the silesia plainly, do not trim them with lace, unless you add this adornment to the curtains, but finish with a plain hem. With the various trifling ornaments a young girl gathers about her, the room will receive anything it may need in color to brighten it. A room so prettily furnished may be a real help to a girl; it will not be easy for her to cultivate disorderly habits there, for the effect she has worked to create would be entirely marred. It may help her to calm thoughts, but of this we cannot be certain.

Fashion Notes.

Cockade bows are all the rage. Colored straws are much worn.

Flowers are worn to excess on bonnets.

New parasols are very showy and large.

Henri II styles are gaining ground in Paris.

Black silk hosiery is excessively fashionable.

Braiding is for morning and walking dresses.

Black straws are more worn than colored ones.

Oriental colors in brocades are much sought for.

Fancy checked and striped hosiery is going out of use.

Summer toilets are made dressy with lace and embroidery.

Some of the new lace mitts are ruffled with silk at the top.

Parasols of pongee have scalloped borders and tinted silk linings.

The simplest forms of making up summer dresses please most.

A flower epaulet on the left shoulder is a pretty fancy of the moment.

The Louis XVI shades are most prominent, dull-reds, faded blues, dried rose leaves, and dead wood.

Tucks in bunches across the skirt in flounces, and in lengthwise rows on front breadths, are still in favor.

Triple box-pleats, kilts and panels, with bouffant drapery in the back is the leading style for making skirts.

Silk gloves in the popular Jersey shape are worn and embroidered along the back of the hand and across the arms.

A favorite dress for little folk is the white Mother Hubbard dress, worn with colored gimp and sleeves or vice versa.

There is no fabric handsomer for an elegant evening costume than royal satin with brocade bouquets of detached flowers.

Buttons most used for children's dresses are gilt or silver balls, gilt diagonals, black cut jet metalines or crochets.

Napkins, table-covers and babies feeding aprons are covered with outline embroidery representing a variety of subjects.

Lunch cloths with white centers gay-colored borders and doilies to match have superseded the solid-colored cloths.

A great amount of box-pleating and knitting is displayed upon costumes in fine reps, French melange, bunting and cashmere.

Black brocaded grenadine with large velvet flowers makes a graceful basque, and draperies for plain grenadine skirts that have lace flounces.

Bonnet trimmings are made attractive by cashmere and metallic effects, while the most gorgeous shades prevail where one set color is preferred.

Infants' caps are composed of fine French embroidery, plain with three shirred ruffles of the embroidery around the face and tiny bows of narrow ribbon.

Cashmere cloths are making very highly prized wraps, and for travelers and pleasure seekers in warm weather, serve a much better purpose than silk or light cloths.

Large bows of gay colored ribbons are worn, tied around the arm at the elbow, with dark dresses, by ladies ambitious to start new fashions. The effect is quite striking.

While short dresses have the preference for the street, the reappearance of the train for the house is hailed with satisfaction by many, for its graceful folds lend an essential elegance to all rich costumes.

Among the fashionable trimmings for summer are bands of Persian embroidery of colored silk worked on canvas. The designs are similar to those seen on Chinese tea-chests.

Evening bodices have Greek sleeves, the point on the shoulders where the ends are crossed being ornamented with a brooch or flowers, and with these are worn very long, light silk gloves.

Pins attached to very small fancy buckles are the novelty in ornaments. Trimmings are made secure by the use of the pins in the same manner the ball-headed pins were utilized last season.

The material as in dress goods prevail for umbrellas and parasols, both the Ottoman and Persian. Some are quite plain with heavy sticks, while others abound with ruffles of laces and have handles of ivory, crystal or porcelain, with carved serpents or heads of animals.

He Was Deeply Afflicted.

There was a sad, sad look on her face as she sat down at the piano and, deftly evoking the music of its chords sang to him:

"Dearest, I am growing old,
Silver threads among the gold."

Deeply affected by the revelation, he said to himself:

"Is it indeed so bad as that?" and, without waiting for the conclusion of the song, went out and bought her a bottle of hair dye.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR

A Cure for Styes.

Among the most troublesome and often noticed eye affections are what are known as hordeolum, or common stye. Dr. Louis Fitzpatrick, in the *Lancet*, differs from some of his professional brethren, who persist in ordering the application of poultices, bathing with tepid water, etc. These no doubt do good in the end, but such applications have the great disadvantage of prolonging the career of these unsightly sores, and encourage the production of fresh ones. Dr. Fitzpatrick has found, after many trials, the local application of tincture of iodine exerts a well-marked influence in checking the growth. This is by far preferable to the nitrate of silver, which makes an unsightly mark, and often fails in its object. The early use of the iodine acts as a prompt abortive. To apply it the lids should be held apart by the thumb and index finger of the left hand, while the iodine is painted over the inflamed papilla with a fine camel-hair pencil. The lids should not be allowed to come in contact until the part touched is dry. A few such applications in the twenty-four hours is sufficient.

[It would be better and safer, however, to call in a doctor to apply this remedy, as the eye is too susceptible to injury to be trifled with.—EDITOR.]

Care for the Ear.

We do not think that most people sufficiently realize the importance of caring for the ear. In the case of the celebrated Dean Swift whose life-long sufferings were due to a simple cold taken before his twentieth year, there were ringing in his ears, deafness, headache, nausea, vertigo or giddiness, with a staggering gait. But there are multitudes of cases in which the trouble is confined to simple deafness, slight at first and hardly noticed, yet steadily increasing with years. Every winter thousands lay a foundation for it. The part affected is what is called the "middle ear."

It is sometimes inflamed by cold air striking continuously on the outside just behind and below the ear, or penetrating the open cavity. Fashion, which sends young children from overheated rooms into the winds of winter with the ears wholly unprotected, is responsible for many sad cases.

When there is a "cold in the head" (nasal catarrh) the inflammation often extends to the Eustachian tubes (the tubes that convey air to the middle ear), and thence into the ear itself. Sometimes the throat and back of the mouth (pharynx) are inflamed, and the inflammation spreads upwards in the same way. An inflammation is often thus extended from the nostrils to the ear by an improper blowing of the nose. One nostril should be cleared at a time, the other remaining fully open.

As the results—not noticed for years—may be increasing discomfort for life, the ears of the young should occasionally be examined by a competent physician. The tendency to deafness may be checked if taken in time.

In the above cases there is a thickening of the membrana tympana (eardrum), which thickening tends to increase with every new cold; or some of the inner inflamed surfaces grow together, and the action of the ear is interfered with, or the Eustachian tube becomes closed. Sometimes the eardrum is perforated, the inflammation giving rise to suppuration.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

That you may be beloved, be amiable.

Candid thoughts are always valuable.

A future full of oats does not help the jaded horse.

Luck is a swift horse, but ill-suited to a long journey.

Death is the highwayman who demands both money and life.

Better a soft heart and an iron hand than an iron heart and a soft hand.

Perfection is attained by slow degrees; she requires the hand of time.

However things may seem, no evil thing is success, and no good thing is a failure.

All other knowledge is hurtful to him, who has not honesty and good nature.

Nothing is more dangerous than a friend without discretion; a prudent enemy is preferable.

He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper.

A more glorious victory cannot be gained over another man than this, that when the injury began on his part, the kindness should begin on ours.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

A mammoth's tusk was recently found fifteen feet below the surface in a gravel claim near Canby, Oregon.

It is calculated that fifty Atlantic liners will be able to lie broadside on the quay now being made at Antwerp.

The yellow cedar tree of Alaska has a fragrance like that of sandal wood. The wood is grainless, and the Russians build many ships of it.

There was formerly a wooden bridge at Portage, N. Y., 800 feet long and 234 feet high. It was said to be the largest structure of the kind in the world.

A Danish sailor, in a ship sailing off Cape Lewin, West Australia, went aloft with a can of oil and was pitched overboard. The oil left such a trail on the sea that the man was traced and picked up more than an hour after the accident.

Base-ball, as now played, is an outgrowth of cricket, and is a creation of the last twenty years. Previous to 1860 the round bat and present hard ball were unknown, at least in New England, where a flat bat was used, and the ball a soft one, thrown at the player to put him out.

The tradition that aromatic vinegar was invented by four thieves who during the plague at Marseilles plundered dead bodies with impunity, and revealed the secret of their prophylactic on condition that their lives should be spared, is made doubtful by the fact that Cardinal Wolsey used aromatic vinegar, and that he died more than a century before the first plague raged.

A French scientist explaining why fish eaten in Holland are superior to those eaten elsewhere, says that the Dutch fishermen kill their fish as soon as taken from the water, by making a slight longitudinal incision under the tail with a very sharp instrument. Other fishermen, on the contrary, allow their fish to die slowly, and this slow death softens the tissues and renders them more liable to undergo change.

SAYINGS AND WHO SAID THEM.

Familiar Maxims that are Used Without Knowledge of their Authorship.

Many of our common sayings, so apt and pithy, are used without the least idea from whose mouth or pen they first originated. Probably the works of Shakespeare furnish us with more of these familiar maxims than any other writer, for to him we owe: "All is not gold that glitters," "Make a virtue of necessity," "Screw your courage to the sticking place" (not point), "They laugh that win," "This is the short and long of it," "Comparisons are odious," "As merry as the day is long," "A Daniel come to judgment," "Frailty, thy name is woman," "Make assurance doubly sure," and a host of others. Washington Irving gives us "The Almighty dollar." Thomas Morton queried long ago, "What will Mrs. Grundy say?" while Goldsmith answers, "Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies." Charles Pinckney gives—"Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his fellow-citizens" (not countrymen) appeared in the resolutions presented to the House of Representatives in December, 1790, prepared by General Henry Lee. From the same we cull "Christmas comes but once a year," "Count their chickens ere they are hatched," and "Look before you leap." Thomas Tasser, a writer of the sixteenth century, gives us "It's an ill wind turns no good," "Better late than never," "Look ere thou leap," and "The stone that is rolling can gather no moss." "All cry and no wool," is found in Butler's "Hudibras." Dryden says "None but the brave deserve the fair," "Men are but children of a larger growth," and "Through thick and thin." "When Greeks join Greeks then was the tug of war," Nathaniel Lee, 1692. "Of two evils I have chosen the least," and "The end must justify the means," are from Matthew Prior. We are indebted to Colley Cibber for the agreeable intelligence that "Richard is himself again." Johnson tells us of "A good hater," and Macintosh in 1791, the phrase often attributed to John Randolph, "Wise and masterly inactivity." "Variety's the spice of life," and "Not much the worse for wear," Cowper. "Man proposes, but God disposes," Thomas a Kempis. Christopher Marlowe gave forth the invitation so often repeated by his brothers in a less public way, "Love me little, love me long." Edward Coke was of the opinion that "A man's house is his castle." To Milton we owe "The paradise of flocks," "A wilderness of sweets," and "Moping melancholy and moonstruck madness." Edward Young tells us "Death loves a shining mark," "A fool at forty is a fool indeed." From Bacon comes "Knowledge is power," and Thomas Southerne reminds us

that "Pity's akin to love." Dean Swift thought that "Bread is the staff of life." Campbell found that "Coming events cast their shadows before," and "Tis distance lends enchantment to the view." "A thing of beauty is a joy forever," is from Keats. Franklin said, "God helps those who help themselves," and Lawrence Sterne comforts us with the thought, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb."

The Northern Boundary.

The northern boundary of the United States is marked by stone cairns, iron pillars, wood pillars, earth mounds and timber posts. A stone cairn is seven and a half feet by eight feet; an iron pillar seven feet high, eight inches square at the bottom and four inches at the top; timber posts five feet high and eight inches square. There are 385 of these marks between the Lake of the Woods and the base of the Rocky mountains. That portion of the boundary which lies east and west of the Red River valley is marked by cast-iron pillars at even-mile intervals. The British place one every two miles, and the United States one between each British post. Our pillars or marks were made at Detroit, Mich. They are hollow iron castings, three-eighths of an inch in thickness, in the form of a truncated pyramid, eight feet high eight inches square at the bottom, and four inches at the top, as above stated. They have at the top a solid pyramidal cap, and at the bottom an octagonal flange one inch in thickness. Upon the opposite faces are cast in letters two inches high, the inscription, "Convention of London," and "October 20th, 1818." The inscriptions begin about four feet six inches above the base, and read upwards. The interior of the hollow posts is filled with well-seasoned cedar-posts, sawed to fit, and securely spiked through spikeholes cast in the pillars for the purpose. The average weight of each pillar when completed is eighty-five pounds. The pillars are all set four feet in the ground with their inscription faces to the north and south; and the earth is well settled and stamped about them. For the wooden posts well-seasoned logs are selected, and the portion above the ground painted red, to prevent swelling and shrinking. These posts do very well, but the Indians cut them down for fuel, and nothing but iron will last very long. Where the line crosses lakes, mountains of stone have been built, the bases being in some places eighteen feet above the lake's surface at high-water mark. In forests the line is marked by felling the timber a rod wide and clearing away the underbrush. The work of cutting through the timbered swamps was very great, but it has been well done, and the boundary distinctly marked by the commissioners, the whole distance from Michigan to Alaska.

The Face of the Earth.

It is estimated that the proportion of the surface of the globe covered by water is to the land surface as 278 to 100, and that the average height of land or continents over the world above sea level is somewhat less than 1000 feet. The great mountain chains by which the continents are more or less traversed form narrow ridges, which rise in no case more than 29,000 feet, or say about 5 1/2 miles above sea level, and add but comparatively little to the mass of ground above the sea level. On the other hand the contour lines of the oceanic basins tell a very different tale of the great submarine depressions. The soundings made on the voyage of the Challenger in the North Pacific ocean have shown that its mean depth is not less than 15,000 feet, and that of the South Pacific about 12,000 feet, while the mean depth of the North Atlantic is found to be 14,000 feet, and of the South Atlantic 13,000. It is only in high northern latitudes, in the North Atlantic and North Pacific, that the soundings give evidence of shallower seas—a mean depth of about 8000 feet. Thus it is extraordinary how small the mass of land projecting above the sea level is compared to the mass of waters filling the depressions beyond that level.

Taking the average depth of the seas and ocean at 10,000 feet, and the height of the land at 1000 feet, the mass of the land above water as compared to the mass of waters filling the ocean troughs is nearly in the proportion of one to thirty. It is curious that the deepest sounding recorded by the Challenger in the North Pacific registered a depth of about five miles and a quarter—a depth which closely corresponds with the elevation above sea level of the loftiest point of land, namely, the summit of Mount Everest, in the Himalayas, which is 29,002 feet, or very nearly five miles and a quarter. We must remember, however, that the one measurement is that of a mere peak, while the other probably gives the depth of an extended trough. We may thus realize how irregular are the contour lines of the globe, and how deep the depressions and abysses concealed from our view by seas and oceans. Could all these waters be drained off from the surface, our earth would present the aspect of a solid sphere every where wrinkled and deeply pitted. Nevertheless, its actual dimensions are so great that mountains five miles high and ocean troughs five miles deep bear no greater relation to the bulk of the globe than the irregularities on the skin of an orange.

Opened Both Doors.

The other day, when it was pouring rain, a citizen turned aside to enter a store on Michigan avenue, the door of which was open. He made several attempts to push the umbrella in before him, but the space would not permit. He was standing there, looking puzzled and annoyed, when the dealer came to the door and asked:

"Well, what is it?"

"The door is not wide enough to admit my umbrella."

"Ah! I see—just wait."

And he straightway flung open the other door to permit the man to enter. After they had talked of this and that for half an hour the man with the umbrella suddenly slapped his leg and called out:

"By George! what a dolt! If I had closed my umbrella I could have entered the door as it was!"

"That's so! Come to think of it I see you could," replied the other.

"Well, well, not a day passes that we can't learn something new!" —Free Press.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPPS.

Solar eruptions or prominences, hitherto seen only at the sun's edge, have been observed by Mona. Tacchini or its very disk.

An electric light for deep sea fishing adorns the new steamer Albatross, of the fish commission. When sunk beneath the water it attracts the fishes, and these are caught by a net which is drawn up from beneath it.

Notes by a large number of observers upon the color of horses in different parts of the globe have been brought together by Dr. Langkavel in a very interesting manner. White and gray horses are, perhaps, the most general favorites; but a great variety of other colors are held in esteem. It is noticeable that black horses are little sought for, except by Europeans.

Dr. A. L. Child is authority for the statement that trees known to be only twelve years old were found when cut to have thirty-five to forty of the rings which are popularly believed to be annual marks. His experiments point to the conclusion that the formation and thickness of the rings depend upon changes in the atmosphere, and the more frequent these changes the greater the number of rings.

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