



FAIR WOMAN'S WORLD

Blinds for the Opening of Spring from the Countess Annie de Montague—The Proper Jewelry for Both Young and Old—The Bustle in Paris.

As the days grow longer there is a fore-shadowing of spring, and during the penitential season of Lent, when one is supposedly mortifying the flesh, careful mothers find leisure to attend to the wants of the little ones, writes the Countess Annie de Montague to THE DISPATCH.

For half-grown girls there is nothing peculiarly distinctive, as they wear the tailor jackets and the big hats of eccentric shape and of scarcely less diminutive size than those of grown-up Maude, who has just made her debut in society.

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BESTOWING THE DOT.

Prominent Washington Women Discuss the Marriage Portion.

HOW FOREIGNERS PROFIT BY IT.

MR. SENATOR CAREY DRAWS A PRETTY PICTURE OF WYOMING HAPPINESS.

PRONOUNCED A RELIC OF BARBARISM.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Should American girls have dowries? Should we settle a portion upon our daughters at marriage? These questions I have asked of some of the most noted society ladies during the past week, and I find their answers interesting in the extreme.

"I am in favor of dowries for our daughters, though I do not think the matter should be a compulsory one, as it is in France. I believe, however, that both husband and wife are all the happier from the possession of means of their own, and every parent who values his daughter's best happiness will not hesitate to endow her upon the event of her marriage.

"How a Count Got \$10,000 a Year." "Nevertheless, I know," continued Mrs. Sherman, "of any number of instances in which the system has proved rather disastrous. You may probably have heard of the marriage of Miss Gordon, of Cleveland, O., to Count Vilain, of Belgium.

"The habit of giving babies and young children rings is an absurd one, as the ring soon becomes too tight and ruins the shape of the finger, says Countess Annie de Montague. A pin, bracelet or anything is better than a ring, which if it is loose enough the little one is sure to lose.

"It is somewhat early to touch upon spring headgear, but the picturesque large hats, the leghorn flops and the sweet little sunbonnets of shirred mill will not be abandoned. The close shades are the best for babies in arms, and the French cap being the accepted model; it is made of very fine needle-work, edged with real veil, and with perhaps a rosette of narrow baby ribbon in front and wider stripes that tie beneath the chin.

"Among the striking illustrations of costumes in a late Harper's Bazar is the one here reproduced. It shows the front of a broche silk gown. It is described as extremely pretty and not beyond the reach of ordinary pocketbooks.

"The bath sachet is usually thrown into baby's bath tub; it is compounded of bran, almond meal, castile soap and orris, and imparts a delicious perfume to the water, lasting the place of soap. Violet and rose sachet bags seem to belong to infancy, the sweet baby smell imparted by the delicate sachet which is strewn among the baby clothes enclosed in hampers and bureau drawers.

"For christening gifts silver is the usual offering. A silver rattle cup, which once was the invariable present of the god-parent, fashion has decreed the presentation of silver spoons, on the anniversary another spoon is sent, so that when the recipient has attained a round dozen years, he or she is in possession of just twelve spoons. After the teaspoons have been exhausted, tablespoons or forks may be given; and the gift of a watch, beyond the usual marriageable period, such an custom might become a tax upon the god-papa and god-mama. As a boy is not supposed to have any watch, the gift is usually to present him with a gold coin on each anniversary with which to commence a bank account.

"I always go to nature," said Worth, speaking of colors, "for my combinations; there is no surer guide. Not in flowers so much, they are apt to be gaudy, as a rule, although I have made some beautiful things out of the face of a flower. This is a mistake idea. It has a tendency to keep the pores open, and if used daily will free the skin from eruptions. It is also necessary to use the face cream after washing to obtain a good clear complexion. Creams and liquids generally are damaging, though they do for the time being what they are advertised to do. Good powder is not injurious if one washes the face before retiring. Plenty of fresh air is more beneficial than anything else. Bay rum, glycerine and rose-water keep the skin from being chapped.

Shoulder capes are still destined to hold their own, and will be worn almost as universally as they were in the fall; velvet will be the material mostly chosen for these jaunty creations.

For wet toes the finest cloaks are of ottoman or bengaline silk, made with the French back and the loose pleated or gathered front. The handseams are silk-lined and have

enormous pearl buttons and big full sleeves, with velvet collar and cuffs. Silver gray, pale blue and Edison blue are among the preferred colors. A charming garment for a brown-eyed 2-year-old baby is of delicate brown cotton, the skirt set onto the waist in big box pleats lined with silver feather-edge braid; these pleats are tacked down and form great loose rosettes which fall over the skirt.

Neatness and suitability are two of the factors to be observed in the dressing of children, and she is a wise mother who can preserve the means between interlarded livery and unbecoming severity.

The charm of a private dinner is simply that it is private. Why, then, allow its charm and sacredness to be destroyed by anything so obviously brought into existence by the people and for the people as the menu? asks the New York Times. A menu is a "bill of fare." The use of the French word is an affectation; that language, however, lends itself to the cause of cooks, as we all know to the cost of our health.

Foreign food appears at the top of the card in place of the English one, the affection continues through the list. Soup is bouillabaisse, consommé, puree, potage. A consommé is ragout. One from meat or game or fish, already cooked, is saimi. Side dishes are entrees. A pie is vol-au-vent or pate. Baked dishes are a la or au gratin, according to the preparation and ingredients used. Thus are our dishes disguised. In adopting the masquerade we pay tribute to French cooking, which is at once the most delicate and economical, and we enlighten only a few in the fundamentals of gastronomy.

"The wife of Senator Carey of Wyoming is always the belle of the social season in that State. Her husband is far more respected in the light of counselor to her husband than with us.

"The dress of women in the heroic age is continually cited as the most beautiful model for business and the Supreme Judge, who only need to be around and look wise in the picture gallery of the stage, to imagine the iron barons and silver kings and cattle magnates getting down to business with an arm of iron on the left arm and holding up their gowns, out of the mud with the right hand.

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IN WOMAN'S SPHERE.

Edmund Russell's Popularity and the Achievements of Men.

IN COOKING AND DRESSMAKING.

Show That the Fair Ones Have Been Beaten at Their Own Game.

RIGHT THING IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

IT IS WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.

Edmund Russell tells us that "modern dress has no beauty of line, design, texture, or color. It hides all the plastic beauty of the figure, and robs it of freedom of expression." Artists generally are outspoken in their condemnation of the present style of dress with its stiffness and restrictions, but it seems certainly clear that men, at least, have reached a degree of simplicity and adaptation for the business of life.

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THE PEOPLE'S TABLE.

Recipes for Dishes That Are Palatable, Healthy and Frugal.

THE FRENCH FOR AMERICAN HASH.

New Ways of Preparing Chicken, Turkey, Fish, Game and Ham.

MISCELLANEOUS CULINARY NOTIONS.

Mr. DeLorme says of croquettes that they are an attractive French substitute for American hash. His method for making them, if closely followed, will be found very satisfactory, and I here append it:

Take the remains of fowl, mix with a spoonful of mayonnaise sauce, and set aside for two hours. Chop the meat very fine. Chop up an onion, fry in an ounce of butter and add a tablespoonful of flour.

Take two onions, chop quite fine and put in a hot frying pan with enough beef dripping and butter to fry them tender. Add a little salt. Season with salt, pepper and a little thyme. Pour in a little boiling water and thicken with browned flour.

Take fragments of cold turkey, chicken, veal or lamb. Put in small pieces, put in a stewpan and cover with boiling water. Cook for five minutes, season to taste, thicken with a little butter and a teaspoonful of curry powder. Let come to the boil again, and serve with boiled rice.

Put a stewpan on a small piece of butter, add a little milk and stir into the hot mixture. Serve with bread crumbs and small pieces of butter.

Cut in small pieces the remains of boiled ham, pound well, add a little melted butter, salt, pepper, and a little milk, mix well, and spread on toasted bread and heated in the oven.

Cut cold boiled ham into even slices. Season with a sprinkle of cayenne. Turn in a moderate fire, turning frequently. Make smooth one tablespoonful of mustard with a little oil and spread over the ham. Serve hot.

Melt in a stewpan a small piece of butter, add a little milk and stir into the hot mixture. Serve with bread crumbs and small pieces of butter.

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