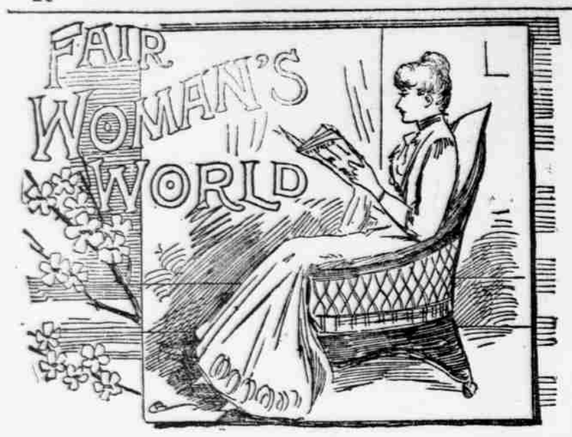


FANCIES FOR THE FAIR.

Spring Fashions at Home and Abroad—The Hats to Be Worn in London—Some of the Novelties—Gowns for Debutante and Belle.

Hats! exclaims a London correspondent of THE DISPATCH in a letter received last week. Up hill, down dale, and round the corner! Far and wide they spread, laden with the fruits of the earth and the birds of the air! Why should the crowns of our heads be made to describe an angle of 45°? Why should we measure a good 20 inches from the napes of our necks to the tip-topest polar regions of our heads? Heaven knows! These are questions that even the oracular "p'liceman" cannot answer. One pretty little hat, of rough light gray straw, was of the most "up-hill" description, and had softly coiled and knotted crepe scarves coming from the turned-over brim at the back, of the most delicate shades of amber, pale gray and soft lilac. This trimming was held in place by silver pins, encrusted with pale yellow transparent stones, and the effect was charmingly "springy" and pretty. A queer bit of a head covering was composed of a band of cocks' feathers, springing from a coil of orange velvet,

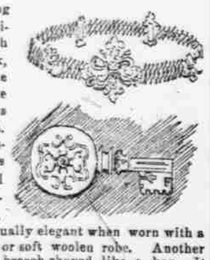
Trimmed in Gilt Galloon.

A Hat of the Season.

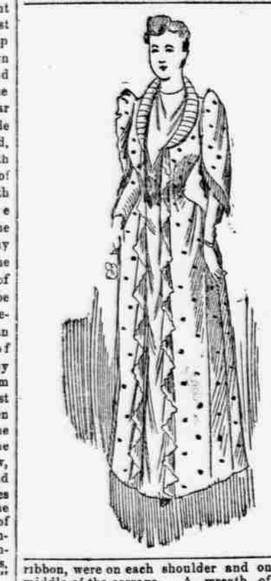
sharply curving toward where the crown of a bonnet is usually worn, but where, in this instance, it was absent. At the back was an aigrette of black and gold, while orange velvet strings were crossed at the back and tied under the chin. A great big hat was almost of the "poke" shape, of fine black chip, turned up very much at the back, and trimmed with quantities of "baby-blue" narrow velvet ribbons bunched in bows on the back, and the low crown. The "face" of the brim had a countless number of narrow little frills of fine black lace, and resting on the hair on the left side was a sweet little rosette of the dainty blue velvet. Another nice hat was of mixed black and yellow straw, in shape most indeterminate and indescribable. It began life on the right side as a shady, useful-looking head covering, but on reaching the left side, rather to the front, it seemed to break its resolution and fell into a dozen little upstanding curves and creases, held in place by delicate jet pins, over which tumbled feathers matching the straw of black and yellow. Broad strings of soft yellow silk, shot with black, were brought from the "crumpled" back, and intended to tie under the chin with a big full bow. By the way, strings on large hats are very broad and soft, ditto on tiny bonnets are very narrow and stiff.

A vegetarian of stern principles might proclaim her creed to the world by wearing a bonnet I shall try to describe to you. The foundation was of silver wire, and over it was drawn soft green gauze in faithful representation of an exaggerated lettuce leaf. The veining of the leaf was faithfully followed by delicate silver thread, the gentle undulations of the succulent vegetable being prettily outlined by the same silvery edging. At the back was a large loop of silver ribbons with tiny little flies embroidered on them with an aigrette of fine black and green feathers rising from its dainty bed. The "strings" were only a cord of twisted green and silver, and were tied in a tiny bow close to the left ear. A fine black gauze veil with silver flies was to be sold with this bonnet, and really the effect was not outrageous, but most delicately lovely, though a little conspicuous.

Most charming gold belts made of a sort of network of gold, have of late been introduced for evening wear, especially with light silk, or crepe de Chine dresses, says *The Season*. Their elasticity makes them sit well to the wearer's figure. They are equally elegant when worn with a black silk or soft woolen robe. Another novelty is a brooch shaped like a key. It may be used not only as fastening for the collar, but also as belt clasp and hat ornament.



A charming evening gown, writes Bettina in her London fashion letter to THE DISPATCH, was worn by such a pretty little dark-haired debutante at a "Cinderella"—dreadful form of entertainment!—the other evening. A full bebe bodice of white crepe d'ete was belted in at the waist with broad bows and ends of saffron ribbon, with a design of white violets, with their leaves stemmed on it. The skirt was full and plain and also of crepe, and was lifted at one side to show an under petticoat of saffron-hued silk, with a ruche of white violets all round it. This under petticoat was slightly trailing, so that the violets did not "hide their fragrance" under the foamy overskirt. Bunches of white violets, tied with saffron



ribbon, were on each shoulder and on the middle of the corsage. A wreath of the same delicate flowers, with a tiny bow of ribbon, rested on the dark hair. Long white suede gloves and a fan of saffron-coloured gauze with ivory sticks. A huge bunch of white violets was tied to the sticks with saffron ribbon, which formed a loop so that the fan could be carried on the wrist. The accompanying illustration of a tea-gown of challie, made in princess style, with a plaited flaring collar, close sleeves, draped front and knife-plated ruffle in jabots up the fronts of China silk. The drapery at the top of the sleeves is of the challie, edged with the knife-plaiting of silk.

The accompanying illustration is of a wrap of lace and ribbon made up over a thin silk foundation. The back forms a V of lace in plaits, with ribbon bretelles on either side ending in a tiny fan below the waist, edged with lace which extends to the front and continues as a double jabot to the erect neck frill. The handsome edged ribbon forms bretelles ending in loops and ends below. The sleeves are of wider lace puffed on the shoulders and strapped with the ribbon. The lounging coat, or "smoker," has given its neglige cut to many of the new garments, probably introduced through the Bedford cords the material first gained popular attention in this style of jacket. Buttoned coats are seen finished down the buttonhole side of the front with deep scallops outlined with gold braid. Buttons like flattened balls are made of pearl. Borders of graduated cabochans are showy. Feather ruches and border edges, and those of silk "feathers," are depended upon. Jewels are almost as plentiful on coats as on manties. Hand embroidery is on silk wraps. Cardinal surah is a favorite lining. The black silk capes and coats will be found convenient in being suitable for wear with all dresses, and the coat suits specially desirable for the promenade in rendering a wrap unnecessary.

Tailor-made gowns still assert their ascendancy for rough "walking wear" in London, but it is to be questioned whether the latest additions of gold and silver embroidery on skirts and jackets is an improvement. Such brilliant garniture seems a little out of place on a

A House Gown by Worth.

gown that is meant for every-day use, and it should be used, therefore, sparingly, and in most cases entirely eschewed. "Golden slippers," continues Bettina, are no longer "good style." Silvered foot wear, with bows of silver gauze studded with opaline beads, are correct only with a thin white dress; otherwise the material of the shoes must match the gown. Square-toed, high-heeled, paste-buckled shoes are correct only with the Louis Quinze coats. Very pointed toes and high insteps "go" with trianon paniers, and black velvet slippers with little paste or rhine-stone buckles on the toes are the things for neutral-tinted dinner gowns.

The blazer seems to have taken a new departure in that it opens the season in such elaborate guise, or disguise, as almost to prevent its recognition.

At a recent suburban wedding, says the New York *Times*, the bride wore a wreath of myrtle in lieu of the traditional orange flowers. Her bouquet was of white hyacinths, which, after bestowing a stem upon each groomsman, she duly threw back into the hall, where six bridemaids and her maid of honor eagerly contested for its possession. The groom belonged to the navy, and his groomsmen were gorgeous in gold lace and glittering buttons, an effect of yellow and black which was paraphrased by the yellow and white of the bridemaids' toilets. These young women carried bunches of yellow daffodils and wore gold shoes, which, with their gowns of white chiffon, made them striking pictures. The chancel and altar were banked with yellow and white bloom—all of which, since yellow has ever been accepted as the hue of the forsaken, shows the bride to be quite above notions.

The Vienna "Housewives' Society," which was started about seven years ago, and since then has taught the noble art of good housekeeping to 1,284 girls, partly orphans preparing for matrimonial duties, and the rest girls going out to service, has taken a new departure, and beginning with the middle of next month proposes to give a course of instruction to nursemaids and governesses. The girls will be taught to set an untidy room straight in the least possible time, to wash and dress children thoroughly, and to treat children's hair from a hygienic standpoint. Furthermore, they must learn to mend children's clothes, and also all kinds of games and amusements, and no girl will receive a certificate without pasting an examination in general proficiency.

TWENTY CENTS A DAY.

A Hearty Laboring Man's Food Should Cost Him No More—Money Wasted in Fuel and Bad Cooking—How to Make Sally Lunn—Other Recipes.

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

In a recent lecture Edwin Atkinson stated that with nine-tenths of the people the cost of maintaining life exceeds half the income. The cause of this is, in many instances, waste of fuel and improperly cooked food. Mr. Atkinson showed that with the improved culinary appliances, which are fortunately becoming daily better known, the cost of feeding anybody would range from 20 cents a day for a hard-working man to 12½ cents a day for a woman doing very light work.

The "Aladdin" stove, by which Mr. Atkinson accomplished these wonderful results, is simply an iron box, about 18 inches long by 14 in height and width. It is inclosed in a case made of wood pulp. Under it is an ordinary lamp burning about a quart of kerosene oil in eight hours. All the heat is retained in the oven, and it is never higher than about 360°. There is absolutely no smell, and the food is cooked without distilling the juices or dessicating the solids. With this oven, all there is to do is to put in the food, and the lamp does the rest. No attention whatever is required. With it anyone can cook, and cook well. In addition to the Aladdin oven, Mr. Atkinson has invented a workman's dinner pail, in which a dinner of two courses can be carried to the workshop and cooked over an ordinary lamp during the morning ready for consumption at the noon hour.

A reader of THE DISPATCH asks for a recipe for Sally Lunn. I give below two reliable recipes for this favorite cake, so often found on the Southern breakfast table:

Sally Lunn No. 1.

Sift into one quart of flour two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, and add to it a scant half cupful of butter and two tablespoonfuls of sugar creamed together. Stir in a pint of milk and two beaten eggs; add a little salt, mix well and bake in two round pans until light brown. When about to serve tear in pieces—do not cut.

Sally Lunn No. 2.

Sift together one pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Beat two eggs, whites and yelks separately. To the yelks add one-half cupful of sweet milk. Stir slowly into the flour, and pour in one-half cupful of melted butter. Add whites of eggs last. Bake in gem pans, two-thirds full.

Following are some reliable general recipes:

Custard Pudding.

One quart of milk, four eggs, a pinch of salt, four tablespoonfuls of sugar, a grating of nutmeg. Bake in a greased pudding dish until solid, and remove from the oven before it curdles.

Biscuit Pudding.

Beat up the yelks of four eggs, add the whites beaten stiff, a pint of milk, sugar and flavor to taste. Put biscuit in this mixture and when well soaked, remove, drain and set in the oven to brown, after spreading with butter and strewing with currants.

Steam Pudding.

An excellent cup pudding is made after the following recipe: Heat to a light cream a teacupful of butter and two tablespoonfuls of sugar. Add two eggs, the yelks and whites beaten separately, one coffee cup of milk, two coffee cups of sifted flour, one cupful of raisins or currants (properly prepared) well floured, and three level tablespoonfuls of baking powder, sifted in last. Steam in cups or glasses, half filled, for one hour. Should any pudding be left over—I doubt it—set it in the steamer the next day for 30 minutes. Serve with sauce or cream.

Molasses Cake.

One cupful dark molasses, one-half cupful butter, one level teaspoon soda, and ginger to taste. Cream the butter, add other ingredients, and beat until foamy. Add one-half cupful of boiling water, two cupfuls of flour and one egg. Bake in a brisk oven.

Rice Fritters.

Steam a quarter of a pound of rice in milk until tender. Add a pint of milk, two beaten eggs, a cupful of sugar, a pinch of salt, a little cinnamon and flour enough to make a rather stiff batter. Fry in thin cakes and serve with butter and sugar.

Egg Sponge for Soup.

Mix together the yelk of one egg, a teaspoonful of flour, and a pinch of salt. Add the white of egg, beaten stiff, mix gently and pour on top the soup. Turn in a few minutes, separate and pour into the tureen with the soup.

Eggs and Bacon.

Cut some bacon very thin, and put into a frying pan with a little butter or drippings. Put in the bacon, and when fried on one side turn over and break an egg on each piece. When the eggs are set put the cake slice (or turner) under the bacon and remove gently to the platter, which should be warm.

Eggs With Sauce.

Boil four eggs ten minutes and throw into cold water. Peel and slice thin one onion and fry white in a tablespoonful of butter. Add a teaspoonful of flour, mix well, add a half pint of milk and season with salt and pepper. Simmer the sauce for a few minutes and put in the eggs cut into six pieces each, crosswise. Toss them gently until heated and serve on toast.

Codfish With Cheese.

Cover a piece of salt codfish with plenty of water and let stand over night. In the morning shred it, removing skin and bone. Thicken a cupful of boiling milk with a tablespoonful of flour, and the same quantity of butter, rubbed together. Turn in the codfish, stir until heated, and then pour into a greased baking dish. Strew with grated cheese and bake brown.

Berry Pudding.

Sift together a pint of flower, one-half teaspoonful of salt, and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat up two eggs, add a cup of milk, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter and a pint of berries. Mix with the flour and boil or steam for one hour.

Good Pastry.

One cupful of lard and butter mixed, three cupfuls of flour and a level teaspoonful of salt. Sift flour and salt, and chop in the shortening, which should be cold and firm. Blend with a little ice water, and handle as little as possible. Roll the paste from you.

Stewed Cabbage.

Shave the cabbage fine, cover with plenty of boiling water, and keep boiling steadily for 30 minutes. Drain, season with salt, pepper and butter. Add a little cream and dredge of flour.

ELLICE SERENA.

WILL call at your residence with samples and furnish estimates on furniture reupholstery. HAUGH & KEENAN, 33 Water street. au

HOW TO GET MARRIED

Mrs. John Sherwood Describes the Customs in Polite Society.

A PROPER WEDDING IN ENGLAND.

Announcing the Engagement, the Invitations and the Ceremony.

BRIDEMAIDS AND THE HONEYMOON

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Rice and slippers, slippers and rice!
Quaint old symbols of all that's nice
In a world made up of sugar and spice,
With a honeymoon always shining;
A world where the birds keep house by twos,
And the ring dove calls and the stock dove coos,
And maids are many and men may choose
And never shall love go pining.

If there were no weddings there would be no "art of entertaining." It is the keynote, the initial letter, the open sesame of the great business of society. Therefore, certain general and very, perhaps, unnecessary hints as to the conduct of weddings in all countries may not be out of place here.

In London a wedding in high life, or as the French call it "hilif," is a very sweeping affair. If we were to read alone the descriptions in the *Court Journal* of one wedding trousseau furnished to a royal princess, or to Lady Gertrude Somebody, we should say with Fielding that "Dress is the principal accomplishment of men and women," and as for the wedding cake which is built at Gunter's, it is a sight to see, almost as big as Mt. Blanc.

The Proper Source of Wedding Cake.

The importance of "Gunter" is assured by the *Epicure's Almanac*, published in 1815, and for many years this firm supplied the royal family. When George III. was king the royal dukes stopped to eat his pines in gratitude for the sweet repasts furnished them in childhood, but now the Buzzards of 197 Oxford street also are specialists for wedding cakes. Leigh Hunt, writing one of his pretty little essays, described one Trumbull Walker as the "artist who confined himself to that denomination," meaning wedding cake. His mantle fell on the Buzzards.

This enormous cake and the equally enormous bouquet are the chief distinctive marks in which a London wedding differs from ours. To be legal, unless by special license of the Archbishop of York, wed-

Mrs. John Sherwood.

dings in England must be celebrated before 12 o'clock. The reason given for this law is that before 1820 gentlemen were supposed to be drunk after that hour and not responsible for their own promise and expression made at the altar. The wedding breakfast in England is often a sit-down affair with speeches. It is not followed in our country often; perhaps it is well to omit the speeches.

The Mother Breaks the News.

The first intimation of an engagement should come from the bride's mother, and the young bride fixes the day of her wedding herself. Then the father and mother or guardians of the young lady issue cards, naming the day and hour of the wedding. Brides often give the attendant maidens their dresses, or if they do not do this, they suggest what they shall wear. The groom gives the bridemaids lockets, bracelets or rings, and presents each of his ushers with scarf pins or studs, something by which he shall remember the day. The fashion of groomsmen has passed away, and the happy man is only attended by a "best man," one friend at the altar who holds his hat and otherwise sustains him. The bridemaids still hold their own, although a pretty fashion has been introduced of a "lady of honor," who precedes the bridal procession into the church. Six ushers generally precede the party into the church, after having seated the guests. These are generally followed by six bridemaids who walk two and two. No one wears a veil but the bride herself, who enters on her father's arm. The bridal dress is of white with long train; the veil, of tulle or real lace, must be fastened with orange blossoms. But all this may be varied if the bride chooses, and a traveling dress and bonnet substituted. Young widows who marry a second time must not wear white or veils.

What the French Complain Of.

The fact that the bride is in white satin and often with low neck and short sleeves, and the groom in full morning costume, is much criticised in France.

The invitations to the wedding are very simple and explicit:

MR. AND MRS. CHAPMAN
request the pleasure of your comany
at the marriage of their daughter
ESCLAIRMONDE
to
MR. GERALD FITZ GERALD,
on
Thursday, June 16, at 12 o'clock.
St. Peter's Church.

Another card is inclosed to those who are asked to the reception.

After these cards are out the fiancee must not appear at the opera, the theater or balls. In asking a young lady to be her bridemaid the bride is supposed to be actuated by feelings of relationship or friendship, although fashion and wealth and other considerations often influence these invitations. Each bridemaid is expected to give a handsome present. The groom asks men of his own age and of his intimate acquaintances. They must be unmarried men, and are expected to manage all matters at the church.

Music should play softly through the preparatory entrance of the family. The mother of the bride and her nearest relatives precede her into the church and are seated before she enters, unless the mother be a widow and give the bride away, a very touching and beautiful ceremony.

Cold and Ceremonies.

After the ceremony, which should be conducted with great dignity and composure on all sides, for exhibitions of feeling in public are in the worst possible taste, the officiating clergyman shakes hands with the young couple and congratulates them. The bride takes her husband's right arm and they walk down the broad aisle without recognizing anyone in the church to their carriage at the door, followed by the bridesmaids, the ushers, the family, and drive home to stand under a floral bell and to be congratulated.

The bride's mother yields her place as hostess for the nonce, and is addressed after the bride. After two hours of receiving the bride retires to change her dress for a traveling suit which may be of any color but black. She comes down with her mother and sisters, meets the groom in the hall, and dispenses the flowers of her bouquet to the smiling maidens, each of whom struggles for a flower. Then occurs the farewell, a scene of mingled tears and smiles. The horses and driver and footman of the carriage which is to drive the happy pair for the honeymoon are all dressed with white favors and flowers, and as they drive off rice is thrown after them and an old slipper.

In England the happy pair spends the honeymoon at some house, a friend's house presumably lent for the occasion. However, in this land of comfortable hotels, an agreeable and quiet apartment can always be secured.

The Bride's Receiving Days.

After returning to her home the bride should advise her friends by card of the days on which she will receive them. To persons not invited to the wedding the parents of the bride send announcement cards. Dinners to the young pair succeed each other in rapid succession. For the first three months after the art of entertainment is stretched to its uttermost.

If the wedding occurs in the evening then the groom must wear the dress coat and white tie.

If it is to be celebrated at home, the space where the bridal party is to stand is usually marked off by a ribbon. The clergyman comes down in his robes before the bridal pair, they face him and he faces the company.

Hassocks are prepared for them to kneel upon. After the ceremony the clergyman retires from his coigne of vantage, and the bridal party takes his place, standing to receive their friends' congratulations. Should there be dancing at a wedding, and it is not a bad old custom, particularly in the country, the bride must open the first quadrille, dancing with the best man, while the groom takes out the first bridesmaid.

As for showing the wedding gifts, that must be left to individual taste. No friend should be deterred from sending a small present, one not representing a money value, because other and richer people can send a more expensive gift. Often the humble offering is a much more and enduring souvenir. Any gift which betokens a long and predetermined interest in the bride is the most flattering.

Ostentation of Gift Giving.

The custom of giving bridal gifts has become an outrageous abuse of a good thing. From being a very pretty custom, one which had as its base the good reason of helping the young couple to begin housekeeping, which is still observed in Holland and the North, by presents of bed and table linen and the necessary furniture of the house, it has become but another form of ostentation. There gets to be a rivalry between the families; the publicity of the whole thing, the notoriety and extravagance, could well be rebuked.

The wedding breakfast in America is a stand-up affair, and it is proper to serve every delicacy, such as salads of chicken and lobster, boned and truffled turkey and pheasants, pati of game, cold partridge, pate de foie gras, terrapin and oysters, ices, creams, jellies and fruits, champagne, claret and punch.

The bride sometimes cuts the cake and allows the young people to search for a ring.

The prettiest wedding is one in June at a country house, particularly if the bride can walk to church over flowers and under the blossoming trees. The massing of a single flower, the yellow daffodil or the pink and white apple blossom, is a very good idea.

Remembering the Domestics.

If choir boys could sing a wedding choral outside the window it would be a happy thought, and it is a pleasant feature of a country wedding that the faithful domestics who have loved the bride from childhood can assist. In England they count on each wearing a favor made by the bride herself. The cook, the maid, the nurses and the men servants in England always expect a wedding favor and a small gratuity, and in this country all expect a box of wedding cake.

At a country wedding, if the day is fine, little tables are set out on the lawn. The ladies seat themselves around, the gentlemen carry refreshments to them. The piazzas can be decorated with autumn boughs, evergreens and flowers, the whole thing becomes a garden party, and even the family dogs should have a wreath of white flowers around their good old necks. Many brides of to-day leave the bouquet at home, and carry an ivory prayer book to church. The term honeymoon is derived from the German, who drank metheglin, a beverage made of honey, for 30 days after the wedding. The bride cake is not so universally sent about as formerly, but still one finds the little narrow box of cake near the door for each to take.

Better Cling to the Ring.

As the ring is the expressive emblem of the perpetuity of the compact, and as the bride cake and libations form significant symbols of the nectar sweets of matrimony, it will not do to banish the cake altogether, although few people eat it and few wish to carry it away.

Brides should send their future address, if possible, with the wedding cards, else if one is invited only to a church wedding, no one knows when or where to call. It is a convenient and pleasant custom for the bridal pair to send out after their marriage cards, having the date of two or more reception days at their new residence.

Quiet weddings either at home or in church are very much preferred by some families. The bride is married in traveling dress and bonnet, and drives off in the groom's carriage from a quiet wedding to the honeymoon. People with a large acquaintance cannot always invite all their friends, of course, to a wedding reception, therefore only ask them to the church. These invitations require no answer, but people being at a distance, who cannot attend the wedding, should send their cards by mail to assure their hosts that the invitation has been received. Much ill feeling is apt to be engendered by the distinction which is inevitably made in leaving out the friends who feel that they were entitled to an invitation to the house. It is better to offend no one on so important an occasion.

The Wedding Stationery.

Wedding cards and wedding stationery should be simple, white without glaze, and with no ornamentation at all. It is proper for the bride to have her left hand bare as she walks to the altar, as it saves her the trouble of taking off a long glove. Child bridemaids are very pretty and very much in favor. These charming children, covered with flowers, looking very grave and solemn, are the sweetest of heralds for a wedding procession.

It is very troublesome to be married in France, especially if one of the high contracting parties be a foreigner. A certificate of baptism is required, together with that of the marriage of the father and mother and a written consent of the grandfather and grandmother, if either is alive and the parents dead. The names of the parties are then put up on the door of the Mairie or Mayor's office for 11 days.

Getting Married in England.

In England there are four ways of getting married. The first is by special license, which costs £50. There is then the ordinary license, which can be procured either at doctor's commons or through a clergyman, who must also be a surrogate and resident of the diocese where the marriage is to take place. Both the parties must swear that they are of age, or if minors that they have the consent of their parents. But to be married by banns is considered the most orthodox as well as most economical way of proceeding. The banns must be published in the church of the parish in which the lady lives for three consecutive Sundays prior to the marriage; also the same law holds good for the gentleman, and the parties must have resided 15 days in the parish, or the knot may be tied in a licensed chapel or at the office of a registrar, notice being given three weeks previously.

As the business of getting married is more lenient than it is in France and England so is the liberty allowed to an engaged pair greater than it is abroad. In England no young girl is allowed to dine alone with her fiance. There must be a servant in attendance. Nor is she allowed to go to the theater alone with him, or travel under his escort, or stop at the same hotel, or relax any of those rigid rules which a Spanish duenna would enforce.

M. E. W. SHERWOOD.

INDEPENDENT WOMEN

Have Great Difficulty in Finding Living Accommodations.

TRIBULATIONS OF HOTEL LIFE.

The Appointments of a Garden Spot in the Oasis of New York.

A CHANCE FOR THE CAPITALISTS

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

Educated sensibilities are not without their sufferings. With this introduction I leave you to the reading of the following letter which bears a New York date, premising, however, that all its statements are the barest fact, as most women will know without question:

"As women come to confession to you, allow one of the homeless to pour her story into your ear. I freely own to you that I am one of the homeless, not far from starving, though no Board of Charity would ever admit me to its bounty or class me in the list of deserving or undeserving poor. My income, every dollar of which I earn by the sweat of my brow, or my brain, is sufficient for all the comforts and some of the tasteful things of life, at least it would be if the city afforded me and such as me anything like a home. Business compels my presence in the city, moreover my health, just beginning to wear, demands baths and treatment not to be found outside of it, otherwise I had rather work in a Hoboken market garden or Peter Henderson's greenhouses than live in town.

In High-Toned Loneliness.

"I usually begin my city sojourn in one of the uptown hotels, where cleanliness and quiet are domiciled, but $4 a day for the comforts of a bedroom 10 by 14 and water hygienically frozen in the decanter, three stories over the heads of several millionaires' families, does not exactly suit an artist's resources. A week of this high-toned loneliness usually sends me to one of the lower-priced hotels, where my friends have been in the habit of stopping the last quarter of a century.

"No longer in the highway of fashion and business, these houses begin to show wear and hardly keep up to their reputation. The restaurant will be good, but the rooms show sad want of housekeeping. I should not mind the threadbare Brussels so much if it were only clean; the water bugs under the washstand rather dismay a nervous person, while the sewer gas and the leaking gas fixtures disturb the mind of the educated one. I never turn down the sheet, preferring to leave the mattress to imagination; blankets I can't help seeing sometimes, and they are enough to spoil a woman's rest.

Might Profit by Continental Example.

"Will our hotels ever attain the continental refinement of bare polished floors, with a washable rug at the bedside and slip covers for the mattresses, or will they ever have the common sense to adopt the sponge silk blankets, which can be washed more easily than the sheets? I freely own that it is difficult to keep bedding clean after promiscuous travelers who turn in with the grime of a week's travel about them or go to bed in their boots next the blankets. But this does not make it any more agreeable for a woman to occupy the room after them.

"Add to this the necessity for wearing a severely scrupulous visage outside your own room lest some half-bred man should read general invitation in your glance, the ceaseless suspicious surveillance of servants, and the position is sufficiently removed from comfort. It was in no second-class house, but one of the choicest and most scrupulously kept of high-priced family hotels that a friend of mine had a bad fright. Detained in New York over night on business, she was awakened in the small hours by a racket at the lock, and the immediate presence in her bedroom of a hall boy and a traveler with his luggage. The porter had blundered, thinking the room vacant, and the lock was out of order, hence the invasion, which was followed by pungent rebuke from the lady and a demand for another room whose door would stay locked, to which she had her things removed in the middle of the night.

Things the Lone Woman Hears.

"This is an exceptional experience probably. It is more common to be kept awake by a neighbor who retires at 2 A. M. in high spirits, having taken more than was good for him, and converses in a key clearly audible and speech which leads to a speedy closing of near transoms. A honeymoon squabble is hardly less obnoxious, and the conversation of two business men over a patent or a sharp trade is equally uninteresting. The entertainment is varied by the political suppers of ward clubs, at which the singing is as bad as the wine, and prevents sleep on several floors long past the smallest of the hours.

"Tired of such amenities I used to hurry into a boarding house, taking the lists of the Sunday papers. It would require a longer letter to recount the drawbacks of boarding, which, I think, combines all the miseries of life with greater success than any other civilized form of existence. Between poor food, and too little of it, and bad air from ingenious mismanagement, I have nearly lost my health. Of the risks involved socially, of the spiritualistic and faith cure humbugs, the prying suffrage cranks, the highly dressed adventuresses one meets in the average boarding house I will speak some other time.

First Impression Favorable.

"But, taking my fate in my hand, I asked for a boarding house bureau which used to exist on Union square. It had closed, as all such conveniences do, after a year's trial, but I would find a 'bureau' for ladies not far west of Broadway. There, in the rain, I betook myself.

"That the house was respectable in appearance was a gratifying surprise; that it was clean, bright and tastefully appointed within was a greater. A page in buttons opened the door; a cheerful drawing-room, decorated in white and gold, was charmingly warm that raw spring day, and light, easy chairs in place of the regulation stuffed furniture, drawn about a table of late papers and magazines—does not this sound pleasant, my homeless sister? It is some sign of progress that New York holds the nucleus of a woman's hotel, where women of independent income can find comfort, at tolerable prices. Transient lady guests engaging rooms are met at the train by a most gentlemanly escort, who sees to their baggage. Their comfortable, fresh rooms have all the privacy of home, as none but their own sex are admitted as lodgers, while at the same time they are free to receive gentlemen's visits in the parlors as they would be at their own houses, and go to theater or concert evenings, sure that some one will be up to admit them without a frown if they are out later than 10 o'clock.

Freedom of a Well-Bred Home.

"There is no schedule of rules to fetter every motion, as if women were not to be trusted outside of a cage of iron network, but the freedom of a well-bred home is accorded each visitor. If a lady wants to see New York independently her tickets are taken for Sara Bernhardt or any entertainment, and a kindly chaperon provided for the evening, or for the daily visits to shops and galleries.

"If she wants a dressmaker, a dentist or a doctor, she is directed to the best. If her special Reginald or Gustavus wishes to spend an evening with her he is not frowned upon by a suspicious duenna, but the couple are put in possession of the cosy back parlor, which on occasions is engaged for ladies' lunch parties or small dinners. The drawing room floor is often taken afternoons for ladies' club meetings, classes or lectures, so that there is something constantly going on in the house.

"Indeed, college girls have no livelier times than the brisk business and professional women who find themselves well met under the friendly roof, which I will only call 'The Bureau.' The chill, the espionage and repression which are the habit of women's associations do not belong here, they are chased away by the courteous, kindly spirit of well-bred women of the world.

Instances of Club Narrowness.

"It does seem as if some of the women's associations and clubs modeled themselves on strictest conventional patterns. One lady came over from a very exclusive club, whose members were all society people, carefully culled from the finest circles, hurt and indignant that her own nephew had been refused permission to call and take her to the theater, and another matron was not allowed to have her own son come to her room, while the two ladies were down from their country homes. What possible good is to be gained from such exclusions? The Phariseeism of some women reaches imbecility, and credits neither their minds nor their morals. It is curious to imagine on what possible grounds a club can be run, whose members pay a liberal price for every accommodation, but are refused the visits of their nearest relatives.

"It is delightful to have some degree of privilege and independence, in virtue of one's womanhood, to enter a house where women have the first right and consideration, where the large, comfortable rooms are consecrated to feminine bachelors, together with the best that a most efficient housekeeper, manager and steward can do for scrupulous care and nicety. I would not exclude men from any good thing, yet there was a sense of even-handed justice when the editor of a leading literary magazine, applying for rooms with his wife, had to be denied on account of being a man.

The Feminine Bachelor's Rights.

"There are so many houses which have no room for women. The sense of protected privacy, of correct surroundings, is priceless to a woman, and minor things about the place add greatly to its attractiveness.

"The shining baths and large, light bathrooms, perfectly aired and fresh with the sweet garden fragrance of fine germicides instead of the close, intolerable odors usual on the landings; the scrupulously kept restaurant, whose tasteful china and dainty service speak feminine appropriation, are the more grateful to womanly senses than words can tell. That the stronger sex appreciates them is evident by the promptness of gentlemen to avail themselves of the snug, pretty restaurant on the lower floor.

"There is one drawback to the place—it is not large enough to take one-tenth the people who would be glad to fill such a bright, tasteful, well-kept place the year round. Rooms are taken a week in advance, and women share the large, double-bedded rooms with strangers rather than see sister women sent away without the comforts of the house.

"I write of this to let women through the country know what nice quarters they can find if they wish to take a nice little run alone to the city, without belonging to an expensive, exclusive ladies' club or joining the lists with working women. It is a beginning only of what might and ought to be done, but a very successful one.

Doing Good With Capital.

"The affair is started by a list of lady stockholders, comprising names well known is every sense of the word, and they expect ample returns on the investment. Here is the chance dear to the heart of the public minded investor of doing good with capital at 10 to 15 per cent profit. The profits are so sure that a wealthy man offered the originator of the scheme $10,000 on her own note to enlarge the business, provided it could be taken out of the hands of women stockholders, whom business men have objects against joining.

"The capitalist who will open a ladies' hotel of ample accommodations for the independent class of women and carry it on as it should be, with as competent management as the single house of the Visitors' Bureau, will strike the success of the year, and as they pay their dollars into his hand women will call him benefactor.

"Tourists who find themselves afloat in the city from the other side of the Atlantic, brisk Western women, on for spring shopping and sight seeing, head teachers, artists and professional women would be glad to know of moderate-priced, inviting quarters, and it is a neglect of opportunity that they are not provided. KATHERINE H."

The types in my last letter divided a sentence to the sad contradiction of the writer's meaning. "Gretna" wrote that over-massage started the down on her cheeks when she "had been rejoicing in its disappearance after six weeks' use of genuine toilet cerate." A period after "disappearance" belied the sense completely, and I fear will cost more than this explanation to correct.

SHIRLEY DARE.

WITH AN UNSEEN POWER.

A Trick Upon Which It Is Safe to Lay a Wager Every Time.

On a dry day rub with a brush, or with the hand, a thin piece of paper; it will become electrified in a short time, and adhere to your hand, your face or your coat, as if it had glue on it, and you will not be able to get rid of it.

Electrify, in the same manner, a thick piece of paper, a postal card, for example, and you will see that, as with sealing wax,

glass, sulphur or rosin, this card can attract light bodies (small pieces of cork, etc.) Balance a cane on the back of a chair and wager anyone in the audience that you will make it fall without touching it, blowing on it, or moving the chair.

All you need to do, according to the *Churchman*, is to dry the card well before the fire, rub it vigorously with your sleeve and put it close to one end of the cane, which will follow it as iron follows a magnet, until, having lost its equilibrium, the cane will fall to the floor.

He Was a Republican Boy.

New York Herald.]

Irate Father—I'll tan your hide, you young scamp!

Bad Boy (defiantly)—You d-d-do and I'll appeal to Mr. McKinley. Hide's protected, they is!

OUR DOCTORS LEAD.

Wonderful Progress in Practical Medicine Made in America.

A MACHINE TO WRITE MUSIC.

The Glass Workers Have Attained a High Artistic Standard.

DELICATE MEASUREMENTS OF HEAT

[PREPARED FOR THE DISPATCH.]

The most important improvements in practical medicine made in the United States of late years have been in surgery in its various branches. This country has led the way in the ligation of some of the larger arteries, in the removal of abdominal tumors, in the treatment of diseases and injuries peculiar to women, and of spinal affections, as well as deformities of various kinds. Above all, we were the first to show the use of anæsthetics—the most important advance made during the century. In our late war we taught Europe how to build, organize and manage military hospitals—and we formed the best museum in existence for the illustration of modern military medicine and surgery. Our contributions to medical literature have been large and valuable, and our Government possesses the most complete and best working medical library in the world.

The total number of surgical instruments and appliances patented during the past decade has been about 1,200, the patents having been, in almost all cases, taken out by manufacturers. With these may be classed dentists' tools and apparatus, of which about 500 have been patented during the last 10 years, and in this field of invention the United States leads the world. The same may be said with regard to artificial limbs, of which our great war gave rise to many varieties. Dr. J. S. Billings, in speaking of the progress of this country in medicine, surgery and practical sanitation, says that by far the greater number of the owners of panaceas and nostrums are too shrewd to publish their secrets by patenting their wares, for they can attain their purposes much better under the law for registering trade marks and labels, designs for bottles and packages, and copyrights of printed matter, which are less costly and do not reveal the arcanum. These proprietary medicines constitute the great bulk of what the public call "patent medicines."

Dr. Billings says: "I know of but four secret remedies which have been really valuable additions to the resources of practical medicine, and the composition of all these is now known. Most of such remedies have little value as curative agents, and some of them are prepared and purchased almost exclusively for immoral or criminal purposes."

Late Science Gossip.

AN admirable mode of opening and closing fireproof shutters from the outside with water pressure from the hose has been introduced into various fire departments. The device can readily and inexpensively be applied to ordinary shutters.

A PROMINENT railway journal makes the excellent suggestion that enterprising and progressive manufacturers should supply trade papers to their men at their own expense, holding that the increased efficiency thereby promoted would repay them many times over.

A TYPEWRITER which will do for music what the ordinary machine does for speech or written composition is a need of the age. Although not devoid of difficulty, the idea is quite a practical one, the principal obstacle to be encountered being the tendency to uncertain alignment, when necessarily heavy type faces, such as are formed by notes with bar and