

## THE WHIRLING SKIRT

Will Make the Girl Who Can Whirl It a Recognized Belle of Society.

### THE FAD IS ALREADY ON.

Women Are No Longer Content to Loll About in Tight Waists.

### DANCING A NATURAL EXERCISE.

The New Fashion Will Make the Corset and Lacing Impossible.

### HINTS FOR PARLOR ENTERTAINMENTS

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

There are signs of a Terpsichorean revival; that the art of Miriam and the East, neglected through generations of Western civilization—tabooed by the Puritan and practiced shilly and trivially by society—is at length to enjoy a triumph, its cycle having come around again.

The foretelling token of it has been the desire among women for physical development. Woman's natural exercise in the course of evolution leads up to the dance. It



TWO VIEWS OF THE FLOWER DRESS.

is no slur on her muscles that a woman cannot play baseball or polo. Men evolved this exercise to suit their own peculiar abilities. In the nature of things there are



Lucy Daly.

exercises adapted to women also, of them the self-centered dance is one of the chief. This is why women who once loathed about in stays now practice Del Sarte, dispense charity through the medium of fancy dances, and make gowns for these things a important part of the summer wardrobe.



THE UMBRELLA SKIRT.

It is also one reason why they have gone mad over skirt dancing. The other reason for the skirt dance craze is that though women do not look any more they still wear corsets. They are in a transitional condition, and the skirt dance disguises the ravages of the old habit.

What the Skirt Dance Is.

The skirt dance is a swirl of drapery mingled with Del Sarte poses. The skirt is more flexible than even practiced muscles. It sways and thrills, and its curves slide subtly into each other, which aid successively as to intoxicate the sight. The skirt in beautiful lines to dance music and steps, and, to pause now and then for a tableau, is all of it, and each woman can make her own dance by practice before a mirror, and be able to entertain her friends with an original specialty. A woman in the professional line, with her dancing ability has made herself famous by swinging a skirt, which proves the availability of it for parlor entertainments. It enables the woman brought up under the idea that good figure and good woman consist in repression all round, physical and

mental, to keep up in a way with the Del Sarte van.

According to the standard that has been set up, it is harder for an elephant to get through a needle's eye than for a man to marry a girl to be graceful. She is stiff and rigid, says a teacher of the Lyceum School of Acting, because her whole training has been deliberately planned to make her so. She has been taught to repress all emotion and never by movement to express it. The very opposite attitude is needed—the representation on the surface of every emotion.

Society Girls Are Awkward.

In the School of Acting, the resort of society girls, as well as of professionals, in search of grace, the corset is allowed, but is not approved by Mr. Sargent, the director. He says that the whole mass of corset wearers are lifeless and without power of graceful movement. It stands to reason that there cannot be flexibility between stiff bands. Mr. Sargent also deprecates the tightness of the ordinary waist about the middle. He says that produces a very unnatural gait, and the arms. The side-fastened jersey is the preferred waist for exercise wear in the school, and it is elastic and permits the teacher to see the movement of the muscles. There a few things that even very rich girls can afford. If I grace myself with that habit, I might go wild, for it can be done without money. That they do mostly go without, was demonstrated in a dance given recently for charity. The men posture with freedom, but the women, very tight about the waist and armholes, were awkward and clumsy.

Body of movement is, of course, worth giving up the faults of conventional dress for, and little by little they will come to do it.

They will adapt their dress, and relax their muscles, and become as graceful as the women on the stage whom they now envy. Lois Fuller, the dancer, wears neither corsets on or off the stage, the

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## WEALTH IN MOURNING

The Mansions of the Vanderbilts When Young William Lay Dead.

### TAKING CARE OF THE FALSE HAIR.

Latest Styles for the Mannish Young Woman in and Out of Doors.

MARGARET H. WELCH'S FRESH GOSSIP

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

Upper Fifth avenue, in New York, during the three days that the body of young William H. Vanderbilt lay in his father's home awaiting burial, presented a dreary appearance. The great stone mansion of Cornelius Vanderbilt is beautifully clothed in the tender green of an ivy, which covers one side almost entirely, but even this did not relieve the somber look of the bereaved house. All the windows, and they are very numerous, even to the tiny slits in the retread tower, had their shades of dark green linen closely drawn; the outer doors were closed, and except for the stream of callers and messenger boys, there was no sign of life about the establishment. A single broad scarf of black crepe, knotted with a bow and ends of inch-wide white ribbon, hung from the door bell.

Up and down the avenue in the immediate vicinity, where the homes of the rest of the family connection cluster, the great piles were equally silent and closed, all shades drawn, and over all seemed to brood the shadow of the heart-breaking grief which had invaded one of them. A close attachment exists between the members of this large family, unusual rather in one so large and with so many ramifications of important interests. The young man just dead was an especial favorite with his grandmother, who is very fond of all her grandchildren. Although they number over a score, not a day goes by when all are in town together that they do not run in to say good morning to her.

In direct contrast to the fashionable young woman's mannish toilet for the street is the soft lace bib with which she relieves her house gown. These are of all varieties, some, of course, lace, some of fine lace, some falling from neck to waist, others like the one pictured, describing a wide V. This is of point de venise lace attached to a straight collar and finished at the back with two

the inclosed," she wrote. "The inclosed was a check for \$100, and I started out with my notions of handkerchiefs, which I quickly raised. Some were paid more than 25 cents apiece, or 50 at the most, for my own handkerchiefs, with the gift at holidays of occasional \$1 or \$2 50 ones; but now I began to ask and find \$4, \$5, \$6 and \$10 ones that were merely very much finer linen, lace and cambric, with a good deal finer cambric, though not as good as them that a casual glance would differentiate from the 50-cent ones. For the \$100 I sent my friend 24 handkerchiefs, and she thought I had done very well. But my eyes were opened to the costly accessories of a wealthy woman's belongings."

At one of the Claremont teas an elegant looking young woman in a gown of gray crepe had a wreath of saffron around her head, a lacework straw which she wore; it ended in a long trailing spray which was caught in a loose knot around her throat and hung low below her knees. Streamers are much used on hats; they are not allowed to blow in the breeze, but are cleverly caught and held by the hand which gathers up the trailing gown.

The new corset belts with suspender attachments have been seen with quite startling effect on Broadway. Worn, as some of them are,



The Arms of Mannishness.

With the very mannish-looking white shirt with high linen collars and straight cuffs, a derby hat and a knotted scarf, there is a very plausible look of man-about-in-his-shirt-sleeves about them.

In these days of widespread summer travel packing has come to be a dreaded necessity with women. Some one suggests that this might be added to the list "specialties" by which so many women add to their incomes, and undoubtedly the idea is a good one. Packing is often merely the getting of things into a trunk, how ever in what condition is not considered. The best packers advocate doing up everything from a handkerchief to a dress skirt into a smooth compact roll and fitting each roll into a niche which will present itself as the process goes on. A New England woman who excelled in packing trunks had a very opportunity to show off the skill of the trunk sit-up shoes and slippers; then every garment, whether it was her husband's shirt or her own tea gown was measured the length of the trunk turned back as far as it would reach, the next garment started where it left off, and so on, right along the opposite side. The pieces of the trunk sit-up shoes and slippers had a deep "Sarafans" its contents were spongey and elastic and even as possible, altogether a marvel of packing. Dice boxes, pack bottles only in cork-lined cases, then come for the purpose, carrying them in a small bag otherwise, and don't pack on a damp day. The open window, are some golden rules of trunk filling that may be remembered.

MARGARET H. WELCH.

Green Authors in the Readers.

A statistician has been comparing some of the various Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Readers used in the Ohio schools. He has made a special study of the selections printed in the Readers, and finds that Shakespeare ranks first with 17 selections, Longfellow second with 16, Dickens third with 14, Sir Walter Scott fourth with 12, and Mrs. Gaskell fifth with 10. Then come Campbell, Washington Irving and Milton. Nineteen authors have under eight selections.

ITALIAN WINES, perfectly fast colors, at MAMAU & SON'S, 235 Penn Avenue. Frank Leslie's Weekly.

There is a species of acacia which grows in Australia called the angry tree. The shoots when handled move restlessly, making the leaves rustle. If the plant is moved from one place to another it seems angry, and its leaves stand out in all directions like the quills of a porcupine, and do not

stockings being drawn up over woven underwear, and the gown hanging from the shoulders.

How a Dancing Skirt Is Made.

The skirt is the main thing, and it must be as wide as possible. One variety of it is accordions-pleated, and the same size at top and bottom. This is the English style. It can be made as face, gathered very full. Several garments skirt go over the other, and the bunched garment garment should be of the same color. These skirts should reach the ankles. Crepe de Chine or India silk or any other soft fabric may be used, and the color may be what one will like. A charming effect of variety is to have a plain skirt, a colored skirt, as is shown in the gown of Miss Daly, which alternates yellow and brown, and has white lace skirts underneath. This skirt is short. For parlor dancing it would of course be made long.

For however, besides which all other skirts are as follows: in the famous skirt devised by Lois Fuller, said to be wider at bottom than top by 40 yards! It is of an Eastern silk of such exquisite fineness that it rolls up in a package 15 inches long by 6 thick, and shakes out again without a wrinkle. It is made, as shown in our drawings, of small gowns, none of which are wider than 12 inches. The width of the skirt is the infinite width. It is whirled as a dervish whirls his body, and it rolls round the wearer in spiral curves, "voluminous and vast."

Another of Miss Fuller's skirts is fringed with bows, while it is a flowing form about the waist. This is a very pretty idea and one that will doubtless be tempted in many country entertainments this summer. It should be remembered that success depends largely on the width of the skirt.

S. D. T.

THE AUSTRALIAN ANGRY TREE

When Handled It Moves Its Leaves and Behaves Quite Quirrely.

Frank Leslie's Weekly.

There is a species of acacia which grows in Australia called the angry tree. The shoots when handled move restlessly, making the leaves rustle. If the plant is moved from one place to another it seems angry, and its leaves stand out in all directions like the quills of a porcupine, and do not

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