

SEEKS THE PICTURESQUE



Claire McDowell, featured in the Red Feather Photoplay, "The Gates of Doom," is a lover of the picturesque in clothes, and she has just revealed the sources from which she draws her inspiration. "Portrait galleries, or if you live in a place which has none, books of good reproductions," she says, "are wonderful mines of ideas for distinctive clothes. It is a truism to say that there is nothing new under the sun; but as we watch the fashion changes from season to season, we cannot help seeing that nearly every so-called new idea is a repetition from some other dress period. At one time we are patronizing the silhouette of the First Empire; then taste changes to the crinolines of eighteen-sixty; then back it goes again to the hoopskirts of Louis XV. But each time the inspiration can be traced directly to some former epoch of clothes.

"When the designers agree on one period in this way, then I go straight to the costume books of that time. If I happen to be in a place where there is a good gallery of the paintings of the old masters, I go there for ideas for my new frocks. Not every town is fortunate enough to have such a possession, but every town has a public library, and you have no idea what a fascinating time you can have, exploring the histories of costume, which it is almost sure to contain.

"Just now students of the dressing of past days are having a glorious inning. Anything which is becoming may be called 'fashionable,' in this delightfully varied season. The other day I saw in the same room a costume which was copied from a painting by Rembrandt, and another which was reminiscent of the Empress Josephine. The originals were centuries apart, yet their modern versions were worn in the same room, and labeled '1917.' I don't think that the wearers were conscious of their involuntary plagiarism; they had simply bought what the designers had offered them.

Violet Mersereau wears boy's clothes half the time in her new Bluebird photoplay, "The Boy-Girl."

Ella Hall's next Bluebird, "Polly Redhead," was shown at the Rialto theatre, Broadway, New York.

Some Resemblance.

"Lightning rods in one respect are like waiters."

"What's that?"
"They won't give good service unless they are well tipped."—Baltimore American.

New Zealand is said to possess alkaline thermal waters double the strength of the famous waters of Vichy and iodine waters stronger than any met with in the old world.

Man and Woman.

Man is the most ridiculous animal on the face of this earth. Women are not nearly so ridiculous, for they are more instinctive, more like the animals which we call the lower animals in our absurd self conceit.—George Moore.

Lucky.

"Come up to dinner with me some night, old man. We've got the most wonderful cook you ever saw."
"Where did you get her?"
"My wife won her at a bridge party."
—New York World.

Nothing will make a person color blind like telling white lies.

Even the smallest pieces of finely broken glass can be easily picked up with a little wad of wet absorbent cotton, which can then be destroyed by burning.

The third finger on the left hand, on which the engagement and wedding rings are worn, is anatomically the weakest of the ten.

Nature and Art.

"Do you think art can improve on nature?"

"Yes. A cuckoo clock is no less melodious than a regular cuckoo and is much more manageable."—Washington Star.

Glycerin was once a byproduct of the soap making industry, the disposal of which gave the manufacturers some concern.

In order to raise men it is necessary to be above them.

African Moslems.

Today African Moslems number little less than 60,000,000, about one-third of the total population.

From heretofore waste tomato seeds Italian canners are making an oil with rapid drying qualities that is useful in varnishes.

When skinning fish it should be remembered that round fish are most easily done if commenced from the head downward; flat ones, on the contrary, from the tail end.

If there is anywhere on your horizon a spot of light, fix your eyes upon it and turn your thoughts away from the clouds which may cover the rest of the sky.

"Bein' contented wif yoh lot," said Uncle Eben, "ain' no excuse foh not hustlin' to git de mortgage off'n it."—Washington Star.

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Snake Bites in India.
India's annual loss of over 30,000 lives from snake bite has forced the production of an antidote serum. The Parel laboratory, Bombay, keeps a supply of cobras from which venom is extracted every ten days. The snakes are forcibly fed with egg slip through a tube. The venom is dried over lime and then dissolved in a salt solution. Increasing doses are injected in a horse until at the end of two years the animal can stand a dose 200 times the original one and is quite immune from the cobra poison. The serum from the blood of this particular horse is an antidote and is absolutely effective if injected in time. Many lives have been saved by its use. However, each bite requires an antidote made from the venom of the same sort of snake that inflicted the bite.

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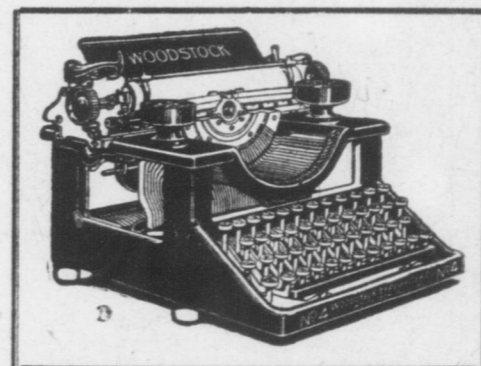
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