

TALKS + ABOUT - WOMANKIND

For Trimming Underwear.
Frills for trimmings are now to be had ready made, which is quite a boon for all who make dresses at home, for they have only to be stitched on, and the work is done. Under-clothing is trimmed with these ready-made frillings, which are also woven or inserted with ribbons at times to give them an additionally smart appearance. On undershirts these frillings look extremely dainty, and any of them may thus be made to look fashionably elegant by adding these frillings of lace and ribbon—the more the prettier.

One of Helen Keller's Pranks.
About this time I found out the use of a key, and one day I locked my mother in the pantry, where she was obliged to remain three hours, as the servants were in a detached part of the house. She kept pounding on the door, while I sat outside on the porch steps and laughed with glee as I felt the jar of the pounding. This most naughty prank of mine convinced my parents that I must be taught as soon as possible. After my teacher, Miss Annie M. Sullivan, came to me, I sought an early opportunity to lock her in her room. I went upstairs with something which my mother made me understand I was to give to Miss Sullivan; but no sooner had I given it to her than I slammed the door to, locked it, and hid the key under the wardrobe in the hall. I could not be induced to tell where the key was. My father was obliged to get a ladder and take my teacher out through the window—much to my delight. Months after I produced the key.—Helen Keller, in the Ladies' Home Journal.

Princess Marie of Denmark.
Princess Marie, wife of Prince Waldemar, born a princess of Orleans, is reputed, no days, to be the chief confidante of the King of Denmark, who, like so many more, is highly impressed with the cleverness of the lady. Endless are the stories which are told of Princess Marie, her brightness and interest she takes in political matters. In fact, nothing seems to escape her notice.
She reads the papers with care, and now and again she sends for an editor and asks him to alter his views, if they do not coincide with hers.
One of the prettiest stories told of the Princess Marie is connected with the United States. A new American war ship, one fine day, steamed gaily into the harbor of Copenhagen and was the subject of much interest. The United States representative, thinking it would give pleasure, arranged for members of the royal family to go aboard this particular pride of the American navy.
One of the very first to avail herself of this opportunity was, of course, Princess Marie. Well, Her Highness caught hold of the captain, who was delighted at finding so clever and vivacious a titled visitor to act as guide for.
Nothing tired the Princess. She must see everything! And, to quote the words of one who was there, Her Royal Highness went everywhere. Finally she found her way to the lock-up, and there she found a lot of jolly tars had been celebrating the evening before into joyous a fashion, had got themselves into trouble, failed to turn up from "liberty" at the proper time and had been brought home by the marines.
The usual punishment for this by no means unusual sailors' escapade meant that they were put in irons, and this accompanied by a very meagre diet.
When the Princess Marie saw the poor Jackies and had heard the story of how they came to such a pitiable position, she forthwith pleaded so eloquently for their release that the captain had nothing left to do but set them free. And you may imagine how quickly the story flew round and how popular the Princess was with every man aboard the man-of-war from that moment on.—New York Herald.

Filtration Fans.
All the big fans of painted gauze, ostrich plumes and spangled muslin can now go way back and lie down in some obscure corner of the shops, for a new, exceedingly tiny fan, made of feathers, has come into all their glory and popularity. This gay usurper is called in Paris, whence it very naturally emanates, the Du Barry; by the frivolous debutantes it is considered "cunning," and is privately known as the "flirtation fan."

It is a matter of ancient history that the great Madame du Barry collected fans, and esteemed those made of feathers above all others. A really smart and correct Du Barry is really no bigger than the hand of a woman of average size when her fingers are stretched apart to their fullest extent. The sticks are of tortoise shell, gilded and carved ebony, and also of horn, so finely polished and oiled that it is as transparent as amber. Ten sticks and two guards is the limit of these five-inch-long fans, and the mounting is done in small, exquisitely colored feathers.
Some of the favorites are jungle-cock, white hackle, brown argus, blue jay, merle, golden pheasant, sea gull and impeyan. The most expensive and brilliant of these feather mounts are done in Brazilian humming bird plum-

age, and in that of the American cardinal, grosbeak. There are but few work people in Paris who are capable of making these fans, for every tiny feather is plucked from the dried skin of the bird and applied to the foundation in a design that creates showy patterns. Another reason for their expense is that many of the birds whose feathers are used for this purpose are rare, and many are protected by the laws that forbid the killing of songsters. On some of these fans the feathers from the breasts of different birds are combined in wonderful designs, and on one of the guard sticks the owner's initials are usually inlaid in gold, and the signature of the maker of the fan is scratched on the shell or horn.
The only other fan that dares share even modestly the vogue of the Du Barry is an equally small affair made of extremely choice black ostrich tips. Five only are used, and these are grouped in lyre shape; their stems are caught by a handle of rough gold, in which baroque pearls and secondary jewels are sunk in semi-barbaric fashion.—Washington Star.

Feminine Sex Bravest.
A Chicago dentist has observed the distinctive character of men and women who occupy his chair from day to day and has gathered some interesting facts.
"The actions of a man in my chair are as different from those of a woman as day is from night," he said. "In the first place a woman will present herself at the pointed time, trembling perhaps, but determining to see it through, no matter how great the pain may be. She gets into the chair, settles back against the headrest, and though she may flinch when the nerves are aggravated, she will not utter one word of complaint.
"A man comes in maintaining a blustering, bravado attitude and gets into the chair with so much apparent resignation and determination that if you ever had seen a man in a dentist's office before you would declare he was a woman's superior in point of bravery at every point. But just wait. The minute you begin to hurt him you hear something, and this something depends upon the religious tendencies of the particular man. If he is profane he swears, and if he is not given to profanity he uses language so close to a violation of moral law that it is rather hard to draw a distinguishing line.
The woman will go through the first operation and when told to come back the following day will agree to do so. What is more, she will keep her word. But a man will go away gnashing his teeth, and the chances are you won't see him again for a week. You have to use all sorts of means to get him back. The fact of the matter is he hasn't the courage to undergo a repetition of the pain to which he has been subjected.
"There is another great difference between men and women which involves personal pride. If a woman has had teeth she wants them treated in the best possible way, no matter how much physical suffering is involved. She will sit for a whole day and subject herself to any sort of treatment in order to have a crooked tooth straightened or some other natural defect remedied. This, of course, is largely a matter of pride, but a man won't do it. He wants good work, certainly, but he wants it done in the least painful manner, and isn't so particular about his personal experience that he is willing to endure torture to bring about the result.
"In justice to the men it must be said that in case of sudden shock they have more nerve than women. This is evident in the pulling of a tooth. A man stands this ordeal better than a woman, but where endurance enters into the operation, he is not her equal in point of nerve in any respect."

As to Cooking Shrimp.
"It is astonishing," said an old-timer, "to find that so many cooks in this section make the most grievous mistake in cooking shrimp. Now, I am a regular shrimp fiend, and have come to the conclusion that I know something about how shrimp ought to be prepared, at least from the standpoint of the consumer. I was asking one of the well-poated men in Royal street the other day how long it took to boil shrimp. His answer was that, as a rule, shrimp are boiled 20 minutes. There is, however, no fixed time limit.
"Shrimp are of a bluish color naturally, a sort of a leaden hue, when taken from the lake or the river. When they are served at the table they are of a pretty yellowish color. Good cooks have told me that they should be taken out of the water as soon as they turn yellow, and I am inclined to believe that this is the proper idea. The complaint I have to make is that a majority of cooks allow them to boil too long, and hence it becomes a tedious and difficult matter to peel them. This is particularly true of the smaller river shrimp. If they are served hot it is not so difficult a matter to peel them after too much boiling. But I prefer cold shrimp, thoroughly iced, when served, and my experience is that too much cooking greatly interferes with the process of eating shrimp, and this is why I make the complaint. They break and crumble, and it is almost impossible to peel them, and since I pride myself on my expertness in this line, I do not want my shrimp cooked too much."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Bernhardt Disregards Health Rules.
Mrs. Bernhardt says that "the secret of her endurance is that she never rests." "Fatigue," she adds, "is my stimulant. Instead of pulling me down it spurs me on." She goes to bed at 3 in the morning invariably, and always rises at 9. As for the usual precautions for the preservation of health, they receive scant attention from her.
It takes more than a dentist to kill the nerve of some people.

Science and Industry.
A Hamburg chemist is reported to have discovered a fluid which, when added to water, produces a liquid that cannot be distinguished from petroleum, and that can be used for heating as well as lighting.
Heat exercises a powerful influence on rocks deeply buried below the earth's surface, chiefly by means of heated water and steam. In this way rocks have been very much altered or "metamorphosed." The crystalline schists have thus been brought to their present state by a series of chemical changes due to heat, and there is no doubt that they were once ordinary deposits of clay, sand, etc.
The smallest vertebrates hitherto known have been several species of little fishes in the southern states, the smallest being somewhat less than an inch in length. A new species of goby, to be known as *Mistichtaya luzonensis*, is reported from Lake Huhl, in southern Luzon, and is even smaller. Its average length being only about half an inch. A surprising fact is that this tiny species is a food fish of some importance. Great numbers are caught in the lake, and with peppers or other spicy herbs they are prized by the natives.
The transplanting of big trees on the world's fair site at St. Louis is an interesting work. A deep trench is cut around the tree four or five feet from its base, and the earth dug away beneath. Then a huge truck is backed up to the tree and securely fastened. The entire tree, 40 or 50 feet high, is then tipped over on the truck and another pair of wheels attached in front. Then with sufficient teams to pull the heavy load the tree is drawn to the place where wanted and restored to an upright position. Much care is required in the work, and the trees will receive constant attention until again well rooted.
M. Thoullet has shown by experiments that in fresh water fragments of pumice of the size of a grain of wheat sink at the end of two or three days, while fragments of the size of a walnut require two or three months before they become waterlogged. These experiments he has lately repeated with salt water of a density of 1.0244 at 21 degrees centigrade, and his results indicate that if the fragments of pumice found on the ocean bed were of subaerial formation they must have floated for incredibly long periods, and he attributes the great majority of such fragments to submarine volcanoes and concludes that the pumice has never floated at the surface at all.
Professor Tyndall used to explain to popular audiences, with the aid of a brilliant experiment, that the blue color of the sky is owing to floating particles of invisible dust, that break up and scatter the short waves, which are the blue waves of light. This, as a recent writer in Knowledge shows, occurs principally at a great elevation, where the atmospheric dust is extremely fine, while in the lower regions of the air, where the dust is coarser, the scattering affects all the rays or colors alike. The brilliant fringes of clouds, seen nearly in the direction of the sun, are largely due to dust, which especially accumulates in the neighborhood of clouds, and refracts the sunlight around their edges.
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"Tack the flannel on a clean board, drawing it very tight in all directions. See that every part of the lace lies smooth and that all the meshes are open. When dry cut the basting threads and draw them out very gently. The lace may be tinted in the last rinsing water if the dead white is not liked. If the lace is point or any of the laces with raised designs, it will be necessary to lift the raised work with a small, pointed instrument."

Lord Methuen's Promotion.
To-day tells a somewhat remarkable story with reference to the capture of Lord Methuen, which seems to indicate that the gallant but unfortunate general had a presentiment of his own fate. A brother officer was returning to England, and in bidding good-bye to Methuen asked him why he did not apply for leave, seeing that he had been out longer than any other general.
"You forget," said Methuen rather sadly, "I have something to wipe out before I can return. You, lucky man, have not."
This reference to the unfortunate fight at Magersfontein much impressed those who heard it, for it was obvious that Methuen was laboring under a blow from which it would take him some time to recover.
"Well, well," said his companion, cheerily, "you will soon make that all right. One of these days you will be capturing Delarey."
"Possibly Delarey will capture me," was Methuen's reply, as he turned away.
Friday Favored.
Evidently Friday is to be the great day for state events. The first court was held on Friday. The king's birthday is to be celebrated on Friday, and the coronation procession is to be on Friday.—Birmingham (Eng.) Gazette.
Typewriting in Natal.
The South African Gazette says that shorthand and typewriting are now regular subjects of instruction in all the public schools of Natal.

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