

TALKS ABOUT WOMANKIND

Hair Ornaments.

The wreath of miniature roses that was once so much worn has given place to foliage, and the most fashionable adornment for the coiffure is a wreath of green leaves. As this color is not invariably becoming, the wreath is copied in black sequined tulle or in black and steel or jet. Graceful bows of velvet with a jeweled buckle are for wearing with the high type of coiffure, while the simple wisp and chou or tulle still have their admirers.

A Coming Sculptress.

Californians think they possess the coming feminine sculptor in Miss Gertrude F. Boyle. Though a recent graduate of the San Francisco School of Design, she has already done two busts of noted Californians, which every one is discussing. One is a model of John Muir, the bard of the Sierras, and the other of the late Prof. Joseph Le Conte, professor of the University of California. The Le Conte bust is considered so fine that his friends are raising money to have it cast in bronze to present to the university.

The Jewel of the Hour.

The latest fashionable little jewel of the hour is the "La Villiere." This is a single stone hanging close up to the throat or collar on a fine chain, usually made of platinum. The stone is a diamond or a ruby with an invisible setting, so that at a slight distance it looks as if the bauble were held in place by a magnet. This bauble may be worn with a tailor-made gown, falling over the collar, or it may rest against the bare throat. As the stone is conspicuous because of the lack of a setting only the best quality can be useful for the jewel.

Fashions in Fobs.

With the smart set girl the fob is taking the place of the watch-chain. But it is only the fob which shows originality which flatters in her eyes. She cares nothing for the conventional one of black moire ribbon or gold links. The cupid fob is the latest. It even appeals to the girl who says she scorns things sentimental. It shows the chubby faces of two rosy-gold cupids looking out from gold wings, which in certain lights reveal tints of green and pink. The winged heads are connected by rose-gold chains and finished with a heart charm.—Woman's Home Companion.

Velvet for the Neck.

Black velvet ribbon is used for the necklet, with an embroidered design as the decoration. The girl who is skilful with her needle embroiders her own necklet. Daisies look well on the black velvet, and so do pink buttons, roses, edelweiss and forget-me-nots. And when the velvet band is worn with an organdie or flowered mousseline gown it is a pretty idea to have the same flower embroidered upon it that appears scattered through the fabric of the frock.

Wristbands are the fashion, too. They are made of the same width velvet that is tied about the throat, and are embroidered to correspond with it. They fasten with a very small patent clasp.

Scented Gowns.

Paris has offered us the costly extravagance of scented dinner gowns. For the lover of scents the fad is attractive, but to others it is more disagreeable than the scented handkerchief. Sachet powder is used for the scent, not in the lining, but in the little bags which are sewn in convenient places on the gown. The Parisian fad is to stuff the hollow just at the front of the shoulders with a bag in which there is a great deal of violet sachet, and a few little bags are concealed in the stock. It is not the correct thing to use always the same perfume. One day violet odor, next day cut rose, next day something else, and so on through the list of sweet smells. The Parisians match the lining of their gowns to the odors in their sachet bags.

Fashionable Sleeves.

Nothing is more fanciful at present than sleeves. They have grown much larger, but they do not take up the room that the sleeves of some years ago were wont to do. They are fitted closely to the arm above the wrist and sometimes have tiny little turned back cuffs at the wrist or a couple of frills of lace.

There seems every probability that elbow sleeves will be worn out of doors with long gloves, but then the lace must descend in deep ruffles outside the arms.

Many of the sleeves are puffed, the puffs divided by bands of embroidery, and the short sleeves have nearly all of them two or three bands on the shoulders, the sleeve itself beginning some inches below and thence reaching almost to the elbow. Occasionally these short sleeves between the shoulder and the elbow display wreaths of flowers. Black velvet is introduced pretty well everywhere.

The Summer Girl.

You cannot be a summer girl this year of grace in a linen suit, and a shirt waist, with a simple sailor atop your lowly head.

You must full and frill, tuck and cord, lace and embroider until you have driven away the accusation of simplicity as well as the look of severity from your material. The summer girl is an ambitious daughter,

Yet there are those who assert that there are two styles of summer girl—the outgoing girl with her blue canvas skirt and her white shirt waist, crowned with straw sailor, white felt fedora, flat topped Tam of straw, or ready-to-wear hat; and the frilled summer girl, she with the flounced and the furberlows, the one who has been called the fluffy summer girl.

Be that as it may—two kinds or one—it is certain that for a long time to come, certainly until the glorious Fourth sends its screech into the air, it is the fluffy summer girl that we shall have in our midst. To the credit of the coming fluffy summer gown it may be stated that it can be worn in the fall, for it is of a kind that is difficult to distinguish from the conventional gown for the house. And it is certainly cheaper than a fine reception or afternoon gown.

The Use of the Pin.

A good deal of scorn is heaped upon the woman who, as the saying goes, "is pinned together." She is put down as untidy and lazy and generally shiftless. The scornful critics do not stop to consider that the most artistic French dresses and hats are seldom "well made;" that graceful and lovely as they are, the mere stitching is very light and unreliable, apt to give at any moment. French hooks and eyes, tucks and bows are all apt to come off after one wearing. Mere sewing is not the artistic thing for which one pays exorbitant prices.

The great couturiers charge for deft touches, inspired adjustments, graceful drapery, beauty of outline. Many of these effects depend on the pin. Clothes should be put on with art as well as made with skill. There is more affinity in the cunning fold placed with the aid of a pin than there is in rows of mere strong stitching.

Personality cannot be expressed in a frock that any other woman could duplicate. It must have special touches of its own, and it cannot have these if the woman who wears it depends on the use of the pin.

Many women spend large sums on their clothes and never seem on good terms with them. Their frocks are very well made—too well made to have any subtlety or illusion. Every fold is in place. Every frill is secured by a strong thread.

Everything is so strongly sewed that no mystery can lurk in a fold, and no expression lie in the curves or lines of a skirt. When you have once seen a toilet, there it ends; the second time you are deadily tired of it, and finally it gets on your nerves.

How you long to see a little difference in the bodice, a curve in the sleeve that you had not noticed before! But all this would mean imagination or pins!

Consequently the notion of a pin is abhorrent; it is untidy, the dressmaker has not done her work properly, she has been paid for something for which she has not given full value.

Women should recollect that in the sordid actuality of dress there is neither art nor beauty.

Style is infinitely more difficult to procure than fashion—one is a triumph of the mind, the other is always procurable with gold. No other attribute is so necessary, to those who wish to be well dressed, as good style, but it is generally inherent and only to be found in the woman who possesses imagination, and can therefore rise above mediocrity.

You can call it chic if you like, but neither style nor chic can be obtained in present day dressing without the aid of the despised pin.

The woman who says she never uses a pin is hopeless; she might as well say she does not wear corsets.

When you have looked long and critically at such a woman you will realize that nothing matters; her clothes cover her and that is all one can say.

Her dressmaker may be more or less of a genius and will stitch the draperies so that they suit her fairly well; the stuff may be pretty and the style unobjectionable—what there is of it; it only lies with the dressmaker, and she has had to firmly stitch her best aspirations. Consequently there is a certain suggestiveness of heavy baked pudding throughout.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

FOR WOMAN'S BENEFIT

Pretty buttons for wash waists are round and of cut pearl.

Particularly dainty is a pink silk petticoat finished with wide flounce of sheer white muslin, with clusters of tucks and feather-stitching.

Neck chains of long flat tortoise shell links will probably come in for a certain vogue later on. They are displayed already in the shops.

Cut crystal, overlaid with gold, in the several pretty shades seen in art nouveau designs, forms the handle of a handsome parasol of white chiffon.

Very beautiful is a hat in which wistaria is the flower, the purple wistaria, outlining the edge of the hat, while the crown is filled in with white madras.

The Dresden dimity skirt is the newest in petticoats. The ground is plain or colored, with floral decorations in delicate or gay hues. A plisse flounce or double frills of the same material finish the skirt.

Studs of cut steel add to the attractiveness of dainty slippers in fine black kid. They are closely set over the heel and at the sides as well as the toe-piece, while neat little buckles of cut steel are a further scintillant decoration.

THE NATURAL BRIDGE.

An Interesting Talk Apropos of the Bill for a National Park There.

Representative Ford of Virginia, whose territory embraces Rockbridge county and other mountainous territory, introduced a bill last week providing for the purchase of Natural Bridge by the national government and the development of the land just about the bridge into a national park. Like every one else in the state Mr. Ford regards the Natural Bridge as the equal of Niagara Falls, and looks upon it as a wonderful work of nature which should belong to the government and be jealously guarded. In this he has the hearty support of many representatives from other sections of the country and the entire Virginia delegation.

In one of the house galleries when Mr. Ford walked to the speaker's desk and presented his bill was one of his constituents, who lives near the bridge, Charles H. Paxton. The latter was as deeply interested in the measure as Mr. Ford. "Up in Rockbridge," he said to a reporter, "the Natural Bridge is estimated as one of the most interesting things in Virginia. Jefferson, who was its first owner, spoke of it as a 'famous place that will draw the attention of the world.' John Marshall called it 'God's greatest miracle in stone.' Clay said it was 'a bridge not made with hands, that spans a river, carries a highway and makes two mountains one.' Those men visited the bridge at the cost of long, trying stage journeys, but they were not the only ones attracted to Rockbridge to see it. Monroe, Benton, Jackson, Van Buren, Sam Houston and no one knows how many others undertook the same journey at the same cost. Today interest in the bridge seems to have grown with the country. It has become necessary for the railroads to build new stations and to adjust their schedules to include Natural Bridge, exactly as they long ago included the great summer resorts on the main line.

"Those who have seen the bridge do not require to be told about it. But for others I don't believe all the pictures in the world would indicate its solemnity and grandeur. It is a single block of limestone, with many shades of color, wide enough to span Broadway and high enough to throw in the shadow the turrets of Trinity church. The walls are as smooth as if cut with chisels. The height of the arch is almost 215 feet, about half that of the Washington monument. Its width is 100 feet and its span is clear 50 feet. Birds high in air pass under the blue arch. The place is full of echoes. Lightning struck the bridge in 1779, and hurled down an immense mass of rock, but there is no sign of its displacement on the natural itself.

"The history of the Natural Bridge is remarkably interesting. It was mentioned first, I think, by Burnaby in 1759, who spoke of it as 'a natural arch or bridge joining two high mountains, with a considerable river underneath.' A bloody Indian fight occurred near it about 1770. Washington, when a surveyor for Lord Fairfax, visited it and carved his name, where it can now be seen. During the Revolution, the French organized two expeditions to visit it.

"From their measurements and diagrams a picture was made in Paris, which for nearly half a century was copied in Europe and America as correct. The original tract was granted by the king to Thomas Jefferson in 1774. After Jefferson became president he visited the place, surveyed it and made the map with his own hands. The next year he returned, taking two slaves, 'Patrick Henry' and his wife. For these two the former president built a log cabin with two rooms and directed one to be kept open for the entertainment of strangers. The slaves were never manumitted. Jefferson left here a large book for 'sentiments' and the sayings of Marshall and Clay I have indicated, were taken from that book. Unfortunately, the book was accidentally destroyed in 1845, and only a part of it remains.

"Above the bridge is an immense glen, probably once a cave, which extends for a mile to Lake Water Falls. There is much to see in this glen—a salt-petre cave, worked for niter during the War of 1812 and by the confederates in 1862, and Lost River, a subterranean stream which shoots out of a cavern high in the wall and disappears in another nearly opposite. Above the arch some one has carved 'Whoever drinks here shall return.' 'Natural Bridge park is a plateau 1500 feet above the sea and comprises about 2000 acres. It is about two miles away from the James.'—Washington Evening Star.

Why the Tip Was Refused.

In Europe the tip to the cabmen in excess of his legal fare is a well-established matter of course. These cabmen, whether in London, Paris, or Berlin, identify an American at once both by his appearance and by his speech. From an American fare they expect much liberality, and in case of disappointment are prepared to be sarcastic and otherwise disagreeable. On one occasion I took a hansom in London for a distance well within the four-mile limit. I gave the cabman half a crown. He looked at me with much impudence and said, "You have made a mistake, sir."

I reached for the coin and, putting it in my pocket, said, "So I have. Much obliged to you." Then I handed him one shilling, his exact fare. He was as angry as a cabman permits himself to be in a country where the 'police will take the word of him who seems to be a gentleman against that of a cabman every time.—John Güler Speed, in Lippincott.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

Beautiful Sofa Cushions.

For the woman who has plenty of time and is skilful with the needle an attractive form of fancy work is the making of sofa cushions of denim, with applique decoration of cretonne flowers. The most artistic results can be obtained in light and dark colorings if the materials are selected with care, for some of the flowers on the newest cretonnes suggest hand painting, so beautifully are they printed. All that is required to produce a most satisfactory cushion is to apply the floral pattern to the denim in buttonhole stitch with black linen floss.

The Ant Nuisance.

A friend who has a country house was in despair over a plague of ants. She traced them to a window, the sill of which was on a level with the ground, and hit upon this original way of exterminating the pests. She arranged a piece of wire netting in a semicircle before the window and fastened the ends to the house; she then captured several toads and put them inside the netting and kept them in "durance vile" while their services were needed. I told this to another friend, who successfully tried the same tactics. In the latter case the trouble was in an arched window, so the prison walls were already built. The prisoners seemed to enjoy the situation.—Good Housekeeping.

FOR MRS. YOUNG WIFE.

Some of the Little Matters She Should Remember.

That the application of the Golden Rule in the new home is of first importance.

That the "no credit" system is a very safe motto for a young couple to live up to.

That necessities should be selected before decorative articles of furniture.

That it is not wise to provide too many pots, kettles and pans, when furnishing a kitchen.

That it is always decidedly cheaper in the end to buy only good carpets and good furniture.

That no matter how small the income a small sum should be put aside regularly for purchasing a home, or for the proverbial rainy day.

That straining after effect, or copying after a richer neighbor, is always a source of discontent and discomfort.

That a simple dinner, well served, is decidedly more enjoyable than an elaborate dinner poorly served.

That a practical knowledge of this "economy of good cookery" will be absolutely necessary for the young housewife, no matter how much "help" she can afford to keep.

That the cellar should be kept clean and whitewashed at least one a year—preferably in the spring.

That all bills for marketing should be paid weekly—or, better still, when the articles are bought.

That everything that goes on the table should be of the best quality.

That with care and economy a small amount of money will do wonders.

That it is important to be systematic in looking after the left-overs.

That all cold vegetables and scraps of meat may be used in soups and salads and croquettes and many appetizing ways beside the objectionable hash.

That in selecting a new home more attention should be paid to the plumbing than to the white marble steps and vestibule.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES

Broiled Sardines.

Drain one can of sardines from their oil; lay them on a broiler, place over the fire, and when they are heated through lay two sardines on each square of nicely toasted and buttered bread.

White Pound Cake.

Cream one cup of butter; add one cup and a half of sugar, gradually, then, alternately, half a cup of milk and two cups of flour with one level teaspoonful of baking powder, and, lastly, the whites of eight eggs, beaten dry. Flavor with one teaspoonful of lemon extract.

Strawberry Whip.

When the berries are small and not perfect enough in appearance to serve whole, chill them thoroughly on ice; then sprinkle with a little orange juice and plenty of sugar and crush them to a pulp and fold in the whipped whites of two or three eggs, and serve as soon as mixed.

Rice Omelet.

To one cupful of cold rice add one cupful of milk, warm; one tablespoonful of melted butter; one teaspoonful of salt and a little pepper; mix these well together and add them to the beaten eggs; put a little butter in a frying pan and when hot turn in the omelet mixture; let cook slowly; put in the oven for a few minutes; when it is cooked through fold in half, turn out on a platter and serve at once.

Spinach and Potato Balls.

These will be found an enjoyable accompaniment to fish prepared in any way, besides they utilize left-overs delightfully. Chop cold boiled spinach and add a cupful to an equal amount of mashed potatoes. If rightly seasoned in the cooking no additional seasoning will be required. Add two tablespoonfuls of cream, one tablespoonful of melted butter, mix thoroughly, form into balls, dip in beaten egg, then in crumbs and fry brown.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

In humble life there is great repose. To live is not a blessing, but to live well.

He who is his own friend is a friend to all men.

That part of life which we really like, is short.

It is not goodness to be better than the very worst.

Make haste to live, and consider each day a life.

If you judge, investigate; if you reign, command.

Our care should be not to live long, but to live enough.

The hour which gives us life, begins to take it away.

It is better often not to see an insult than to avenge it.

This body is not a home, but an inn, and that only for a short time.

If you live according to nature, you never will be poor; if, according to the world's caprice, you will never be rich.—The Sayings of Seneca.

THE SCARCITY OF CORKS.

How It Has Developed Several Queer Industries.

The fact that the world's supply of cork is much less than the demand has been working a peaceful revolution in many trades. The increase in the price has rendered it necessary to devise other kinds of stoppers. This has given employment to a perfect army of inventors, many of whom have reaped neat little fortunes from however, all the inventions have not been able to restore the former balance, and prices keep up in an alarming manner. As a consequence there has been developed a trade in second-hand corks, and under this have come into being queer little industries such as gathering corks, cleaning corks and reamping corks.

In the big hotels, restaurants and saloons the cork perquisite is now a moderately valuable privilege. They are no longer cast contemptuously by, but are thrown into a box or cask, where they accumulate until the cork-picker arrives, who pays a round sum in cash for all offered to him. The average waiter and bartender now employs cork screws which inflict minimum damage upon the cork, and in many places where a number of bottles are opened is the course of a day a steel cork-extractor is used, which will pull out a cork from the interior of a bottle into which it has been carelessly forced.

The peddler who buys them sells them to the second-hand man, who sorts them into various classes. Many large corks can be recut with considerable profit. Others which have been injured can be cut so as to discard the injured portions and utilize that which is sound. Corks which have been discolored by grease can be cleaned by benzene, ammonia water, or lime and water. Those which have been discolored or flavored by medicine can be rendered usable by long-continued boiling with a small amount of chloride of lime, and subsequent drying in a kiln or oven. The finest quality consists of champagne corks. These always command a good price. It is possible to re-use them, and this is said to be done by many manufacturers both at home and abroad. Others can be recut so as to obliterate the maker's or bottler's name, which is usually branded upon the side or lower surface. A second-hand cork when paraffinated can be used for bottles containing oils, powders, and aqueous solutions. They are popular at present on account of the ease with which they can be taken out and put back.—New York Post.

An Uncrowned King of England.

Writing of Prince Albert in an article in the Century on "The Royal Family of England," Prof. Oscar Browning says:

From the first the Prince identified himself with the Queen in all her labors. They had one mind and one soul. Rising every morning with the dawn, the Prince went into his workroom, where their two tables stood side by side, and read all their correspondence, arranging everything for the Queen's convenience when she should arrive. He knew all her thoughts and assisted all her actions, yet so adroit and self-sacrificing was his conduct that all the merit and popularity came to her. The people had no idea that he interfered with public affairs, yet had they reflected, they must have known that it was inevitable. Once during the Crimean War, when the notion got abroad that the Prince had intervened, there were tales of treason and of sending him to the Tower; yet on the day of the Prince's death, on that cold, ice-bound Saturday, Charles Kingsley said to the present writer: "He was King of England for twenty years, and no one knew it."

Engagement Rings for Men.

To Lila Sloane belongs the credit of having inaugurated a new fashion which will doubtless find many followers, both in and out of the 400. Until now engagements have been signified by the gift of a ring to the maiden by her swain. Miss Sloane, not content with this, has presented her future husband an engagement ring, which he now wears in token of the fact that he is no longer a free agent, but under orders.

It is a very handsome ring, adorned with a large cabochon sapphire flanked by two fine diamonds, and is fitted on to the little finger of his left hand. In the future all men who marry and who belong to the fashionable set in New York will likewise look for an engagement ring from their fiancée, a species of return for the ring which they give to her.—New York Journal.

FACTS AND FANCIES FOR THE FAIR

New York City.—The illustration shows one of the season's most popular garments, an Eton of black taffeta with white peau de sole trimmings



ETON WITH SAILOR COLLAR.

And an ecru linen embroidered collar. The jacket is simply adjusted with shoulder and underarm seams. It reaches just to the waist line at the back and has a fashionable dip in front.

The fronts are shaped with single bust darts and may be fastened below the collar if so desired, but these jacks

of the wrapper. The skirt to front and has a graceful sweep back. Bands of satin ribbon collar and cuffs.

The mode may be developed in challe, albatross, cashmere, nuning, or French flannel. It is also appropriate for lawn, dimity, gingham, mercerized cotton, and may be with or without lining.

To make the wrapper in the medium size will require seven yards of this six-inch material with three-quarter yards of all-over embroidery.

A Dressy Little Frock.

Some dressy little frocks for summer wear are made of white wash silk which comes a few yards wide, and will launder just as well as a Swiss or dimity. Both of these virtues are very desirable in fabrics for children's garments.

The dress shown here is made of white silk with lace trimmings. The waist is mounted on a fitted body lining that closes in the centre back and is cut slightly low at the neck.

The full front and backs are gathered at the upper and lower edges and arranged over the lining. The fulness at the neck is confined to the square portion, and the waist fits smoothly on the shoulders.

The lining and body portions joined separately in the underseam, and the waist blouses styled



WRAPPER WITH SAILOR COLLAR.

ets are usually worn open to display the fancy vest or neck piece worn beneath.

Bands of peau de sole finish the edges. The broad sailor collar is of the same material, covered with a separate collar of linen. It completes the neck and gives a becoming, broad-shouldered effect.

The sleeves are regulation coat models, fitted with upper and under portions. They have slight fulness on the shoulders and flare in bells at the wrists.

Etons in this style are made of peau de sole, moire, taffeta or any lightweight woolen fabric, and usually lined with white, as they are intended to accompany light-colored waists. Tucked or hemstitched taffeta may be used for the collar and motifs of lace applied.

To make the Eton in the medium size will require two and one-half yards of twenty-two-inch material, with five-eighth yard of contrasting material for collar.

Comfortable House Gown.

Cool, comfortable house gowns are made of China and India silk, which come in many different colors and are no more expensive than fine gingham. The possession of an attractive wrapper is a source of great satisfaction to most women, and the desire for stylish house garments should be encouraged.

In the wrapper illustrated in the large drawing violet and black silk is trimmed with all-over lace and satin ribbons. It is mounted on a glove-fitted lining that closes in the front.

Three backward turning tucks at each side of the centre back are stitched down a short distance, the fulness forming a Watteau back. A smooth adjustment is maintained under the arms.

The full fronts are gathered at the neck and drawn in at the waist with satin ribbons that are included in the under arm seams and tie in a bow with long ends. A high hand turn-down collar completes the neck.

A broad sailor collar of lace is square in the back and forms long tabs in front. Bishop sleeves are finished with lace cuffs, the points fastening on top.

Bands of velvet ribbon and lace form an attractive finish around the bottom

of the soft belt of pale blue liberty satin.

The sailor collar extends across the back and forms square tabs in front. It is fastened permanently on the right side and closes invisibly on the left. The sleeves are short, full puffs that terminate in narrow arm bands. Lace on the collar bands and waist provide a stylish finish.

The skirt is gathered in several rows of shirring at the top and arranged on the lower edge of the body portion closing in the centre back. It is trimmed with two bands of lace. The shirring increases the size of the hips and makes a very becoming skirt for slender girls.

Dresses in this style are made of challe, albatross, crepe de chine, or



GIRL'S DRESS.

gandle, lawn or dimity, with lace or ribbon for trimming.

To make the dress for a girl eight years old will require two and one-quarter yards of forty-inch material. Debits expand the more they are treated.