



MARVELS OF DESIGN.

How the World is Hansacked to Furnish Forth the Stylish Women.

By the courtesy of the manager of one of the great West End dressmaking establishments, says a London writer, I was permitted to look through a portfolio of designs, not one of which had cost less than \$1000 to produce, and on some of which had been expended nearly \$5000 each.

The head-dress "shape" was of white Yedda straw, the main idea of it being a copy of the hat commonly worn by the Italian peasant girl.

The skirt was a production which could not fail to rivet the attention of even the most disinterested person. Although it was not a copy of any costume ever heard of, the designer had the main idea suggested to him by the balloon-like nether garment of a Chinese mandarin.

Milady's Trinkets.

Among the fashionable insects for ornaments, the dragon fly and the scarabee are two leaders.

Coral is the fad of the hour. Coral forgette chains of extra length, even longer than those of gold, are much worn, and are composed of beads of varying size and range in color from the palest pink to dark red.

Very charming are the new long pins of gold intended to fasten the bunch of flowers to the corsage or muff.

The illuminated serpent is an evening coiffure ornament sent on to us from Paris. This is powdered with gold and glistening with gems until it seems lit by electricity.

Many quaint designs are observable among the latest coral brooches. One is of fruit, surrounded with gold leaves, while another shows autumn foliage with clustered berries.

As a hair ornament a dragon fly with outstretched wings of opal is beautiful.

The small charms so much in demand for milady's watch bow show many oddities. Among the newest are the elephant, sacred cow of India, pig, skull and crossbones and many other unique designs.

The harvest moon still retains its place as the most fashionable brooch shape for the smaller gems, like pearls, diamond cuttings, etc. — Philadelphia Record.

Signet Rings For Women.

Signet rings are now popular with women. While the rings are not so large, they are of the same style as those worn by men—a plain gold ring, with a large circular band in the center, on which the initials are engraved.

"Yes," said a John street jeweler, "I have never a dozen men busy making and engraving these rings, and they are all for women. How the fashion started I don't know, but not so long after they had been adopted by the men the women followed and took them up also."

For trimming purposes lizard green, orange and old rose are the new colors, and they dispute supremacy with the vivid blues and greens that have held sway for so long.

Tan and gray are the most popular shades in the lisle suede gloves now so much worn, and those that are buttoned are considered better form than the clasped ones this year.

engraved signet ring. It is a present that men and women can make to one another without the least embarrassment, and one that will always be appreciated."—New York Herald.

To Avoid Losing Rings.

A good rule to remember when one has costly rings and the habit of taking them off when the hands are washed—which, by the way, should always be done if one wishes to take the proper care of the stone—is always to place them between the lips. If the habit be once formed, it becomes second nature, and prevents adding another item to the columns of loss relating to the rings left in hotels, strange dressing rooms and other places.

Said a woman who has a magnificent collection of rings and who has wisely exercised this habit since its inception: "I have never lost one or mislaid it, and, what is just as important, I have never been through all the worrying anxiety of believing I had lost some one or all of them."

The woman whose fingers are clothed with costly brilliants up to the joints may remonstrate that she has no room between her ruby lips, in which case there are two remedies: one to enlarge the mouth, the other to reduce the number of rings.

Squirrel Skin is a Fad.

Gray squirrel has become a fad of the season. It is to be found in the trimming of hats, the decoration of gowns and as collars. One fancy neck-piece in squirrel skin is a large flat collar falling over the shoulders with stole ends which reach almost to the feet.

For dresses, one of the most satisfactory colors in combination with the gray of the squirrel skin is a rich dark blue. Squirrel skin, though light in color, is somewhat trying to most complexions, but this is easily overcome by suitable combinations in the coloring of the suits and the neckwear.

Care of the Eyebrows.

In caring for the eyebrows they should never be brushed or rubbed except from the roots to the ends. After rubbing them the wrong way they will never lie as they ought to do and will bristle in unexpected places.

Knick-Knacks.

Very pretty buttons made in china, oval, round and square, are to be bought following the designs of different kinds of china, Dresden, Sevres and Staffordshire. Crystal and paste ball buttons are effective, and these often form the tassel to narrow loops of ribbon, which have been run through tiny paste buckles, and replace the small flower tassels, which have been a good deal worn one way and another.



PRETTY THINGS TO WEAR.

Lace boleros are much worn. Painted sashes are a feature of the bridesmaid's costume for fall weddings. Green silk boleros on white muslin gowns are a pretty form of the green craze.

Old English embroidery promises to be much worn during the coming months.

Thin gilt buttons are enjoying an exceptional degree of popularity as ornaments for tailored costumes.

Some of the new short coats are finished with short shoulder cape pointed at the back; others have Capuchin hoods.

The newest buckle is made of platinum, and some of the more elaborate designs in this metal are tinted and studded with coral.

Vells that match the hats with which they are worn are considered very smart. Golden browns, castor and maroon are the favorite colors.

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Household Matters.

To Relacquar Brass Beds. If your brass bed is tarnished you can relacquar it yourself at small cost. Buy ten cents' worth of gum shellac dissolved in alcohol, and apply it with a paint brush.

Lavender-scented Sheets. Lavender-scented sheets are the delight of dainty housewives, and it is claimed that they induce sweet slumbers. The odor is exceedingly fresh, clean and wholesome, and old-fashioned housewives always scented their linen and napery with sprigs of the sweet flower.

Italian orris root is sometimes substituted for the lavender if the latter cannot be procured, but there is no reason why the farmer's wife or any one who has a plot of ground large enough for a vegetable or flower garden should not raise quantities of lavender and keep the linens deliciously fragrant.

Baths For Palms.

Those whose palms persist in having yellow and brown tips on their fronds should try the expedient of giving them a daily and thorough bath," says a woman who has always been most successful with her winter palms. "A sponge dipped in warm water and rinsed as often as it becomes dusty should be used to cleanse every crevice and both the under and upper side of the leaves, as otherwise the plant cannot breathe, and breathing is as essential for plants as for people.

Indian Rugs Need Disinfection.

A woman who knows the West and its Indians gives a word of caution to those who are collecting Indian baskets and rugs. Any one, she says, who has ever been among the Indians realizes the unsanitary conditions prevailing in their wick-ups or hogans. Filth and disease of all sorts are much more apt to be the rule than the exception.

RECIPES.

Baked Squash—Quarter the squash and remove the seeds; place in a baking pan; pour on it a few spoonfuls of water, just enough to keep from burning, and bake in a very moderate oven until tender and merely scrape the soft portions from the shell; mash, season well and serve very hot.

Egg Salad—Cut hard boiled eggs in thick slices or into quarters; arrange each portion on a leaf of lettuce partly covered with mayonnaise; arrange in a circle on a flat dish or platter, placing the stem of the leaf toward the center of the platter; place a bunch of nasturtium flowers in the center.

Vanilla Sauce—Scald two cupfuls of milk in the upper part of a double boiler. Cream together two tablespoonfuls of sugar and the yolks of four eggs and stir them into the boiling milk. Stir the custard until it thickens. Remove it from the fire, add a teaspoonful of vanilla and stand away to cool.

Clam Soup—Chop fine a cupful of clams and add to them their own liquor, strained. Put in one cupful of water, one slice of onion, a blade of mace, and simmer for thirty minutes. Thicken two cupfuls of milk with two tablespoonfuls of flour and two tablespoonfuls of butter.

Stewed Celery—Scrape and wash the green stalks of the celery; cut each stalk into inch pieces; let them stand in cold water ten minutes; put them in a steam pan; cover with boiling water and add one tablespoonful of salt; cover the pan and let cook until celery is tender; then drain off the water and cover with cold water; put one level tablespoonful of butter in a frying pan; when melted add one tablespoonful of flour; stir until smooth; add gradually one cupful of milk; stir over the fire until boiling and thickened; add half a teaspoonful of salt, a little pepper and the stewed celery; serve in a vegetable dish very hot.

Since 1872 4000 miles of railroads have been laid in the Japanese Empire.

ALEXANDRIA'S OLD TOWN CLOCK.

Perhaps no clock in America has a more interesting history than the one in the City Hall and market house at Alexandria, Va. It was installed as the purchase price of a gambler.

In the days before the war Alexandria was known by the sporting fraternity as a pretty rapid place. But in these good old days it was square games and no cheating in the town.

He paid without any bickering, but not very willingly. Then a lucky thought enabled him to take his revenge on the chief blackleg.

The victim started the bid with: "One hundred dollars." "Two hundred," said the gambler.

There was no alternative. The gambler must either be forced to labor, under the supervision of the man who had small cause to love him, or he must go on bidding for himself.

The building was torn down a few years ago to make room for a larger and more imposing one. Not many of the citizens knew the peculiar history of the clock and steeple, but Captain Edward Dangerfield was one who did.

A Happy Bridegroom at 102. What is probably the most peculiar marriage license ever issued by a State official was prepared by the County Clerk of Gloucester, Va.

What is probably the most peculiar marriage license ever issued by a State official was prepared by the County Clerk of Gloucester, Va. The peculiarity of this instance lies in the extreme age of the contracting parties, the man being 102 years of age, and his intended wife eighty.

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST WOMAN PHILANTHROPIST

Remarkable Benefactions of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts.

SIXTY-FIVE years devoted untiringly to the distribution of a vast fortune for the benefit of the poor—that is the remarkable record of Angela Georgina, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the greatest woman philanthropist in English history, if not in the history of the world.

The Baroness, who was born April 25, 1814, is thus in her eighty-ninth year. She commenced her active philanthropic work when she was but twenty-three years old.

She was a daughter of Sir Francis Burdett, one of the chief Liberal politicians of a century ago. Her inheritance of nearly \$10,000,000 was bequeathed to her by her step-grandmother, the wife of Mr. Coutts, the banker.

When the young woman by this bequest became the head of a banking house second only to the Bank of England she took the name of Coutts. Queen Victoria conferred a peerage on her in 1871.

Including as it does many of the most crucial periods in English history the long life of the Baroness affords a remarkable review of events and changing conditions. Her munificent benevolence set the pace for the rich of all England, and the results have been immeasurable.

One of this remarkable woman's most active lieutenants and quite her most important adviser, was no less a personage than Charles Dickens.

The great novelist was familiar with every phase of life in London's squalid East End, and together the two visited the wretched dens and planned lovingly wholesale reforms.

One of the first things accomplished was to demolish a low den for thieves and murderers in Bethnal Green and erect in its stead blocks of model dwellings—the Baroness was really the pioneer of model dwellings in London—with every accommodation in the shape of laundry, baths, etc., and a good library and reading room.

All this was for people who had been surrounded by abominations of every sort; whose every breath had sucked in foul stench, and whose every footstep had been in slimy pools and decaying refuse shot from dust carts—truly a trap for fevers and loathsome diseases. These buildings were erected some half a century ago, and they still hold their own and are indeed in advance of some of later date for drainage, ventilation and light.

Forty odd years since a treaty was made with France on the basis of reciprocity, under which large quantities of French silks were imported, to the practical abolition of the East End hand loom industry. The weavers were absolutely starving for want of work, when Lady Burdett-Coutts came forward as the principal supporter of an association which had been formed for the relief of the sufferers.

Here a large number of persons were employed at plain needlework, their earnings ranging from eight shillings to fifteen shillings per week—a very substantial addition to the scanty income of these families, for many of the men had only the casual work which this bounty provided for them.

The lady was specially looked after, many of them going to sea, and there was, in fact, a complete system of carefully devised help for young and old, even to the engagement of professional nurses for the sick, and substantial money aid that the homes of the people might be kept intact.

When the bitter winter of 1861 overtook the tanners of Bermondsey, and they could not follow their occupation, they were also helped in a substantial manner. The magistrates of the police courts of the neighborhood were inundated with applications for relief, and the Baroness had her own agents at these courts, who inquired into the cases and promptly relieved them.

Many will remember the cholera epidemic which raged among the poor of the East End of London between thirty and forty years ago. The part the Baroness played in relieving the sufferings of the victims is beyond all compute. In addition to paying the salaries of a qualified medical man, eight trained nurses, two sanitary inspectors and four men to distribute disinfectants, her gifts of food and clothing were on a most lavish scale.

Take one week's gifts at random, and this is the wonderful total: One thousand eight hundred and fifty shilling tickets for meat, 250 pounds of arrowroot, 500 pounds each of sago and tapioca, thirty pounds of black currant jelly, fifty gallons of port wine, twenty-five gallons of brandy, twenty gallons of beef tea, 560 quarts of milk, 100 blankets, 400 yards of flannel and 400 assorted garments.

At the same time vast quantities of bedding were sold at cost price to the people, and many new appliances and remedies were tested in a practical manner.

At an inquest held on an old man who was found dead in bed at the Renfrew road workhouse, Lambeth, the medical evidence showed that the man had died some seven or eight hours before being discovered. Dr. Easton said there were 1500 inmates, and he was the only medical officer. The night nurses, each of whom had 300 persons under their care, went through the wards once every two hours. The coroner said: "I cannot see how one medical officer can examine such a large number of inmates. There seems to me to be a false sense of security."

There is not a costermonger living in London who has not the greatest veneration for her who is known as "The Baroness." She has been their best friend for many years, has fought their battles when Bumbledon in its newest form threatened their partial extinction, and they are not likely to forget that as a body they owe their continuance of favored positions and many other benefits to her ready liberality.—New York World.

BRAZILIAN AVOCADOS.

The increasing popularity of the avocado, or alligator pear, has brought the Brazilian variety into great prominence of late. As a matter of fact, the fruit is not a pear at all, but belongs to the laurel family. The chief authority on the subject is a picturesque West Indian, who imports these exotic dainties, and who is an enthusiast on the subject.

"The avocado," he said, "is food and medicine, as well as refreshment. When nature made it, she intended it as the highest development of the vegetable world. It is delicious, but not cloying. It has its own characteristics, but will gratefully accept all other flavors. For this reason it is the only fruit which can be eaten plain, with pepper and salt, with lemon juice and sugar, or with a salad dressing.

New Englanders have made it into a successful pie, which, to be candid, I do not recommend, because I think pies are barbarous; and Brazilian cooks convert it into a marvelous custard pudding. The peculiarity of the pulp is that it contains a large amount of fixed oil, which gives it a nutritive value superior to the olive and the peanut and makes it almost equal to the egg.

"Though a stranger in New York, it is known and loved in every tropical and sub-tropical city. It is grown in the West Indies, Central and South America, Hawaii, the Far East, Northern, Eastern and Western Africa. Some enterprising Frenchmen have a small orchard not far from Palm Beach on the Florida Coast, and in Southern California there are hundreds of trees now bearing. The finest variety is not the Mexican or the Venezuelan, or even the Chinese, as is claimed by travelers, but the Brazilian, and of these the very best come from the Island of Marajo, at the mouth of the Amazon, just opposite to Para. The fruit is of a lustrous, almost vitreous green. The skin is very tough, rather than hard, so much so that it should be cut with a hard steel knife."—New York Post.

Habit of Inanity. A student of child life and development devotes a considerable portion of a volume embodying the result of his investigations to the subject of question answering. He does not advocate the encouragement of silly and naive questioning, in which children sometimes persist. But this he says results from lack of proper mental occupation, and the child's mind should be at once directed to something interesting or puzzling, as there is such a thing as forming a "habit of inanity." But any reasonable desire for information which shows itself in the thousand and one questions asked by the normal child from dawn to dark it is criminal to refuse bread and water. Perhaps it is wearying to go patiently over familiar ground—the a b c's of life, not once only, but again and again, but the parent who is too indolent or selfish to do this is in reality starving his child, and no later acquisitions ever quite make up in the mental development what was denied it in its early expanding years; just as lack of physical food when the new bones and tissue most need it will result in a stunted body which no amount of later feeding will ever bring up to normal size.

The Law Business. Overcrowding is the motto of the day. The factories are overcrowded. The theatres are overcrowded. The only reason why one does not say that the street cars are overcrowded, is that they are something worse. All such overcrowdings, however, are sparseness and loneliness compared with the overcrowding of the bar. In 1891 there were fifty-eight law schools with 6073 students. Now, according to an estimate made by Professor Huffcutt, of Cornell, there are 120 schools with 14,000 students. Meanwhile the number of full fledged lawyers in the United States is said by the last census to be about 114,000. No other profession, with the exception of teaching and of medicine, is so populous.—Chicago Tribune.

Doctor With 1500 Patients. At an inquest held on an old man who was found dead in bed at the Renfrew road workhouse, Lambeth, the medical evidence showed that the man had died some seven or eight hours before being discovered. Dr. Easton said there were 1500 inmates, and he was the only medical officer. The night nurses, each of whom had 300 persons under their care, went through the wards once every two hours. The coroner said: "I cannot see how one medical officer can examine such a large number of inmates. There seems to me to be a false sense of security."

The jury expressed the hope that the press would make "this disgraceful state of things known."—London Mail.