

**WOMAN'S WORLD.**

**A BOSTON WOMAN WHO HAS SUCCEEDED AS A CONTRACTOR.**

**Some Alluring Deceptions - Women as Pharmacists - Chains and Beads Fashionable - Parliament - Typewriters - Seasonable Home and Dress Hints.**

Conservative Boston has become a veritable hotbed for the advancement of women in business enterprises. There are progressive Boston women who can conduct almost any desired line of business, design an artistic dwelling or municipal building, take an excellent photograph, print a novel in the latest style, and, if the novel is not a success, arrange for the author's funeral in a fashion only possible to a tender-hearted feminine undertaker familiar with business reverses in the Hub.

Mrs. Alice E. Cram, who has made such a favorable reputation for herself as a contractor, is also a Boston woman. Mrs. Cram says that she had no special business training beyond a good public school education and the fact that she was the sister of six brothers.

She started in business as a contractor with her husband nine years ago. Her business ability was manifest from the start. Together Mr. and Mrs. Cram contracted for the foundation work of some large recent public buildings, among others the new public library, the courthouse, the boulevard bridge and the Albany railroad, which is said to be one of the finest pieces of masonry in the country.

The entire work on these contracts was superintended by Mrs. Cram, whose judgment in such matters is considered something unique.

About a year and a half ago Mrs. Cram decided to peddle her own busi-



MRS. ALICE E. CRAM.

ness alone. She now has her own office, manages all her business dealings and is securing the wisdom of her choice in her remarkable success as a contractor.

In addition to her regular work Mrs. Cram conducts a commission business, selling machinery and materials used in excavating and in general masonry work. She superintends all her own work, and to this fact she attributes the satisfactory results obtained. When she has a large contract on hand, she drives to and from the scene of action several times a day in a jaunty cart that is managed with the skill of an expert whip.

To Mrs. Cram was confided the entire management of the construction of the foundation for the Edison Electric company building in Boston. Her most recent achievement was securing the contract from the Chase Granite company of New York to team 40,000 tons of granite to be used in elevating the tracks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. For this contract she competed with contractors all over the country.

Mrs. Cram is of the "newest woman" type. She is a pretty, well-dressed, home-loving woman on one hand, and on the other thoroughly businesslike, energetic, just to a degree, far-sighted and generous without being sentimental. She employs women entirely for her office work. "I find that they can always be relied upon," she said recently. Mrs. Cram is a member of the Professional Woman's League of New York, an executive officer of the Boston Business League and treasurer of the Boston Playgoers' club. -New York Journal.

**Some Alluring Deceptions.**

In one of Marlitt's German romances there is a clever young widow who fools her men admirers in the matter of her "simple dressing." She wears white muslin gowns that are vastly becoming and seem alluringly modest and inexpensive. Only her seamstress, who hems the yards and yards of tiny lace trimmed ruffles, and her tire woman, who spends hours at the ironing table "doing up" the billows of flimsy fabric, that must be fresh and unrumpled twice a day, only these—and other women—know no wardrobe could be devised more expensive and more difficult to keep in order than one which demands perpetual presentable and dainty muslin gowns.

In the same list of alluring deceptions must be classed the present "plain skirt" ordered by fashion. It is plain in one sense alone—that of having no trimming. In all others its elaboration is astounding. To cut, line and hang one of these ripple skirts requires great skill. The first requirements are a pattern perfectly cut, a lining as exactly based as the outside, the two laid together seam to seam and held without an iota of "draw" or "pucker," the whole then hung from the hips with perfect smoothness.

When all this is done, however, the work remains—the glaze on the lower edge. Look at the majority of skirts at this crucial part, and it will be seen how few achieve success. It is a "dip" here and a "hitch" there on nearly all, with waves and billows pursuing their chaotic way between. The front breadth has an inelegant tendency to poke out directly in the center, an evil which the amateur dressmaker accepts and the tailor attempts to lessen by putting two or three fatherbone reeds from

seam to seam at the foot, and about six inches apart. Nothing short of the most expert make prevents this skirt from swinging about the ankles in a very ungraceful way.

The fashion is an abomination of the greater because it poses as simple and desirable. Its cost, too, and comfort are as delusive as its design. The perfect, fashionable skirt is supposed to take a dozen yards of silk width material and a corresponding amount of lining and haircloth stiffening, and it weighs from three to six pounds, according to the heaviness of goods. This weight is intolerable to many women who insist on wearing it because it is the fashion. Are we ever to be "advanced" enough to be superior to the dictates of fashion when her commands necessitate such exaggerated and comfortless garments? -New York Times.

**Women as Pharmacists.**

Today the pharmacist is a recognized scientist, and pharmacy has been elevated to a profession. In its present form it has no unclean and unpleasant features and is therefore liked by women. Nevertheless it is only of late years that they have overcome the former prejudices and crossed the threshold of the calling.

They have a natural aptitude for the trade on account of their constitutional caution, delicacy and delicacy of touch. The first woman to enter the profession in our country was Mrs. Jane Loring of Boston, in 1800. She was a grandniece of Congressman Loring. Under the old system there was no state supervision of the profession and any one could take it up who desired without any legal impediments. Under this system over 1,200 women became pharmacists. Of late years, however, there has been a profound change in the industry. Partly to prevent competition, or rather to restrict it, partly to raise the professional standard, and partly to protect the public, colleges of pharmacy have been started in various places in the country and laws passed requiring all candidates for the profession to pass examinations almost as strict and difficult as those laid down for physicians and lawyers. The new system has cut down the number of candidates, both male and female. In Massachusetts not more than a score of women have passed the examinations in the past 15 years. In New York the number is said to be nearly 50, and in the various states of the Union the entire total is below 500.

Many marry and leave the calling, a few have retired, and a few have continued their studies and have become physicians or chemists. At the present time the total number of women who practice pharmacy either as proprietors, clerks or apprentices is estimated at about 1,500. -New York Mail and Express.

**Chains and Beads Fashionable.**

Chains are extremely fashionable this year, and the jewelers in Paris are showing them in great variety, but the fine gold chain, with a single pearl every four or five inches, has the preference. A pretty chain of a fanciful description is composed of pearls set alternately with olive shaped beads of dull chased gold. Some chains are made of small black agate beads, also separated at intervals by single pearls. There is a decided fancy for these black agate beads, which are deemed—not without reason—extremely becoming to the complexion. Necklaces are made of them, their simplicity relieved by the addition of a diamond clasp. A row of black beads, divided on either side by a long S in diamonds, makes a beautiful ornament for the throat.

In the gold chains pink coral beads are sometimes substituted for pearls. Chains are also made of black or blue steel—a metal in as high favor as ever—the pearls introduced as in those of the more precious metal. They are not only used for watches and eyeglasses, but chain purses, and other knickknacks, such as pencil cases, tin powder boxes, mirrors and charms, are suspended from them. These, however, must not be worn openly. It is considered a breach of good breeding to have a bunch of valuable trinkets dangling about the person—to say nothing of the danger of such a proceeding—and it must be hidden either in the breast pocket of the coat or beneath the folds of the dress. -Manufacturing Jeweler.

**Parliament's Typewriters.**

Mrs. May H. Ashworth is at the head of a typewriting department introduced in May, 1895, for the benefit of the members of the English house of commons. She has a staff of five young women, who are proficient typewriters and stenographers. Some of them are also expert linguists. The nature of the work required is thus described by Miss Ashworth: "There are many occasions when a member of parliament wants some letters, or a speech, or a note to his constituents typewritten, and when he does we are at his service. He may also have a foreign letter, written in a language with which he is not conversant. Again we are at his service. Or he may be in a great hurry and have several letters to write. So he sends for one of my staff, dictates them to her, and they are written down as quickly as he speaks."

This employment of women in the British house of commons is an innovation that attracts most attention. One day after the head clerk had written dictated letters for an old member he rushed out of the room, seized the arm of a friend, and dragging him in cried excitedly: "Just think of it! This young lady has written ten letters for me in five minutes! It's marvelous! Simply marvelous!"

**A Literary Critic on Sleeves.**

As to sleeves, the fashions come slowly up this way, and do not seem to be settled by universal woman's suffrage. For the majority of women are not tall and shapely, and only the shapely and the tall can wear with decorum sleeves which make every woman under 5 feet 8 look at least as broad as she is long. On bicycles short ladies so clad are indeed unlovely objects, not to mention

the resistance which such sleeves oppose to the wind. Why women to whom they are grossly unbecoming—the vast majority—submit to the tyranny of these sleeves, I know not. Who would be free themselves must use the scissors if dress-makers won't. Friends of the enfranchisement of women should reflect on this topic, which offers arguments to the adversary. -Andrew Lang in Longman's Magazine.

**Mrs. Livermore.**

A reception was given to Mrs. Mary A. Livermore by the Massachusetts armistice nurses on March 15 at the headquarters of the Woman's Relief corps in Boston. Distinguished guests were present. The Massachusetts Army Nurses' association, auxiliary to the national association, was formed, with Mrs. Fannie T. Haen of Cambridge as president; Mrs. Jane M. Worrall of Boston and Mrs. Ellen W. Dowling of Melrose, vice-presidents; Mrs. Marquette Hamilton of Wakefield, secretary; Miss Mary J. Patena, treasurer. Mrs. Livermore was elected an honorary member, with the privilege of voting on all questions. It was decided to send greetings to Miss Clara Barton, with an invitation to her to become an honorary member. -Boston Woman's Journal.

**Won Her Degree.**

Miss Ida H. Hyde of Chicago, formerly fellow in biology at Bryn Mawr, has just taken the degree of doctor of philosophy magna cum laude at the University of Heidelberg. Miss Hyde was admitted to the lectures at Heidelberg upon the presentation of her thesis—the preparation of which was begun under Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, professor of biology at Bryn Mawr—and has studied there for two years, holding the Phoebe Hunt fellowship of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae for part of this time. She also held the European fellowship of the association for 1898-4, during which she studied at the University of Strasbourg.

**Dinner Flowers.**

The fashion which prevailed some time ago of presenting expensive bouquets to one's lady guests at a dinner has entirely gone out. Now a few flowers arranged in a loose bunch are sometimes given, but anything more is considered in bad taste. At a recent dinner given by a prominent society woman valets filled with pink roses were placed here and there around the tall candleabra, which occupied the center of the round table, and two loose, long stemmed roses, laid carefully over one another, were at each lady's place.

**She Is a Candidate.**

Mrs. Margarete L. Watson, secretary of the Texas Equal Rights association, is a candidate for city secretary of Beaumont, Tex. Mrs. Mariana T. Folsom writes from Edna, Tex.: "The lawyers have decided that there is no law against a woman's holding the office. Influential men, both white and colored, are working for her election. Her character and popularity are such as to make the canvass very interesting for her opponents. The impetus given to the discussion of the woman question in Texas is marvelous."

**Mrs. Leese's Plans.**

Mrs. May E. Leese has declined a call to the pastorate of the Central Christian church of Wichita, Kan. "It will take me a year," she said the other day, "to fill my engagements in the American lecture field, and then I expect to take a trip around the world. Keir Hardie, the well known Scottish Socialist, has invited me to Glasgow. I have accepted and likely will make the first speech of my foreign tour in that city. I hope to remain abroad two years. Then I may settle down to preaching."

**Republican Women.**

At the Republican primary election last month in Massillon, O., 200 women voted. Their efforts were rewarded by the election of Mrs. Etha O. Shoemaker on the school board by a majority of 88. This is the largest vote ever polled by women in Massillon. Mrs. Shoemaker is vice president of the Equal Rights association. Mrs. K. B. Foke is president of the association and Miss E. L. Folger recording secretary.

**The Woman Voted.**

At an election held in Ames, Ia., March 3, the women of the city polled a heavy vote. In the second ward alone they cast over 60 votes. The vote was on the proposition to bond the city for 5 per cent of its valuation to extend the waterworks system and install an electric light plant. The decision to have public improvements is generally satisfactory.

Arkansas has decided that married women are personally responsible for loans negotiated by themselves. With the acquisition of other rights comes this one also. Contracts signed by themselves are binding upon themselves.

The North India M. E. conference has followed the lead of the Ohio and French, China, conferences, and has elected two women—Mrs. E. W. Parker and Mrs. J. C. Butcher—as lay delegates to the general conference.

The Woman's club and Sorosis of Skowhegan, Me., are agitating the election of a woman to serve on the school committee. Several years ago a woman served there with acceptance.

The M. E. church of Upland, Pa., has elected four women as stewards. They will, by virtue of their office, be entitled to sit as members of the next quarterly conference.

A sister of charity is the first woman to receive a decoration in Holland. She was made a Knight of the Order of Nassau-Orange by the two queens of Holland.

There are now 19 state federations of women's clubs.

**WOMEN AS WORKERS.**

**Greatest Success Achieved by Them in Library and Educational Occupations.**  
Nowhere else, as in America has woman's sphere as a worker been so materially enlarged. With our advancing lines of civilization industries have multiplied and divided during the present century more than a hundredfold, and with the subdivisions of labor many kinds of work have been almost entirely handed over to the women. From the domestic and moral duties she has passed on into so many other occupations that it is hard to say from what pursuits she will be excluded.

First she began as a teacher in schools of the very lowest grade, and step by step she has advanced until now she is doing nearly all the educational work of this country with children under 16 years of age. Gradually she worked her way into colleges and universities, and she is now found fully installed as a regular professor in some of these seminaries of learning, and she fills the position as creditably as her fellow workers of the stronger sex. Such a thing would have been tolerated a century ago in but few communities.

Prior to her occupancy of the major portion of the educational field she had already begun to transact business on her own account in retail establishments in cities and towns, sometimes as proprietress, but most frequently as employee. By degrees these occupations have multiplied so rapidly that at the present time there are perhaps not less than 200 different occupations now successfully filled by women, and her work is not confined by any means to mere routine drudgery.

There is no doubt that woman physicians are just as skillful, more sympathetic and as well informed as their brothers in the profession. Within the memory of many now living the time was that a woman regularly authorized to practice medicine would have been regarded as a freak of nature. But silently she came, and to stay, in that profession in which the scale is an emblem of medical knowledge, and now she is looked upon with as much favor as the male practitioner.

In law, too, she has made her appearance, and it will take some legislative enactment stronger than the Monroe doctrine to oust her from the courts.

On the side of directive power she has displayed in many fields of activity as much energy, skill and rare good judgment as men.

In literary and educational work she has doubtless achieved her greatest success. Women when placed alongside of men in managing large graded schools in this country have been equally as successful as the very best class of men, and in almost every large system of schools in the United States some of the supervisors are women of the highest executive ability.

They are performing a species of work that men cannot do very well. Not only this, many of the most efficient and intelligent librarians in the libraries of this country are women of rare ability, skill, tact, energy and practical directive power. Here in Kansas City a fair estimate puts the number of woman wage earners at not less than 12,000 persons, and perhaps as many as 15,000. Take this as a basis, and then extend it and apply it to the whole United States, and one can readily see what is meant by women workers. -Kansas City Journal.

**Bland, but Not Speechless.**

Mary Moody Emerson, the eccentric aunt of Ralph Waldo Emerson, did not hesitate to admonish others for the good of their souls. She would have scorned the recent dictate of fashion that pink ribbons are suitable for elderly ladies, and the charming latter day grandmothers who venture to set off her fresh complexion and soft, white hair by touches of color would have aroused her ire. The story goes that Mrs. Thoreau called one day, wearing a bright flower on her bonnet, upon her eccentric neighbor. Miss Emerson closed her eyes, and after a short time remarked, "Mrs. Thoreau, have you observed that I have my eyes shaded?" "Yes, I have observed it," said the wondering Mrs. Thoreau. "Perhaps you would like to know the reason?" "Yes, I would," was the reply. "Because I don't like to see people of our age gaily of such levity in dress." -New York Journal.

**New Jackets.**

The new features in jackets for young ladies are strapped seams and small pearl buttons. On the strap extending down from the shoulder on the sleeve there will be a dozen small pearl buttons on each of the three straps and six on the straps pointing upward from the wrist. The front is closed with hooks on the left side, and two pearl bullet buttons are set close together near the top and two about six inches above the edge below the waist. -Womankind.

**Mrs. George C. Needham.**

Mrs. George C. Needham, wife of the noted evangelist, preached in Lowell, Mass., not long since. Mrs. Needham is well known as a Bible student, a prolific writer and an accomplished speaker. She has spoken throughout the country at the various Bible conferences and in many prominent churches.

**Early Piety.**

D. L. Moody, the evangelist, told a story in Philadelphia the other day about his life before his conversion, when a boy of 17. He said that while he was a pretty bad boy in his unregenerate days, deep in the follies and errors of the world, he never broke so far away from his early religious training as to forget to say his prayers every night. "I used to sleep with my brother," he said, "and if either one of us happened to jump into bed without first getting on his knees the other would swear at him vigorously and kick him out on the floor."

**The Club Movement.**

Mrs. Eliza M. Henriotin contributes an interesting sketch of "The General Federation of Women's Clubs" to The Review of Reviews. The club movement among American women began about 40 years ago. Women realized that the progress of industry and art threatened to wrest from them the opportunity of earning a livelihood because they were not fitted in mind and body to cope successfully with the revolutionized conditions, and they began to reach vaguely for some educational force outside the club. Here study soon ceased to satisfy, and practical work was undertaken. By a process of gradual evolution the club enlarged their scope until the club calendar covered civics, economics, reform and education. In addition the financial element has crept in. Many of the women's clubs are almost business corporations, so large is their income and so important their financial management. The responsibility of handling money for others is an excellent training for women. The general federation is the latest development of the great movement for voluntary association.

**Newest Mourning Bonnets.**

The widow's bonnet in mourning continues to be either the Mary Stuart or the capote, shape simply covered with English crape, having the white ruffling in front and with dull black ties. The veil of course hides all but the extreme edge of the bonnet. For lighter mourning, where no veil is worn, the small poke shapes are seen, having their fronts defined with dull jet and decorated with high loops of dull black ribbon. The silk bonnets, no matter how light the mourning may be, are no longer counted good forms. The French milliners are using quantities of dull jet and much silk crape upon crape bonnets, but this rather elaborate style of trimming for mourning is not counted good form by either the English or American milliners. One rule always stands—a mourning bonnet should always have ties of the dull shade of black ribbon. -Ladies' Home Journal.

**Women Physicians Wanted.**

The Woman's Society for the Promotion of the Welfare of the Insane, in New York, is endeavoring to have women members added to the state commission in lunacy and boards of managers of state hospitals, as well as having women physicians appointed to serve in the hospitals.

Dr. Phoebe B. Walte and Dr. Amelia Wright of New York city made an argument before the assembly general laws committee.

They advocate a material change in the administration of the state hospitals and propose that the commission shall be increased from three to five members, two of whom shall be women; that there shall be two physicians on the commission, one of whom shall be a woman; two lay members, one of whom shall be a woman, in addition to a member who shall be a practical business man.

**Forty Resolute Women.**

According to accounts in western newspapers, No Man's Land, once the refuge of criminals in the southwest, because none of the surrounding states or territorial courts had jurisdiction over it, has been changed into a rich agricultural and stock country, largely through the work of 40 resolute women, who are now in charge of the 58 public schools of Beaver county. Seven of these young women teachers met in Beaver City recently and organized the Panhandle Cattle company, intending to invest their surplus earnings from teaching in the cattle business. Probably the 40 young women in that territory will join in this enterprise. Over 80 of them have taken claims of 160 acres each on the Beaver river, and will till the soil in summer and teach in winter. They receive \$30 per month for teaching a six months' term.

**Equal Suffrage Stationery.**

Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery has prepared equal suffrage paper and envelopes, with the heading, "Governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed," and a sunflower surrounding the figure "1848," the date of the first local woman suffrage convention ever held. The design is in blue. In accordance with the vote passed at the recent Washington convention, this paper will be sold for the benefit of the N. A. W. S. A. A box containing 24 sheets and envelopes will be sent postpaid for 30 cents. It may be ordered from Mrs. Avery at the headquarters, 1341 Arch street, Philadelphia.

**Bright Colored Gloves in Vogue.**

The Marie Antoinette blue glove is a novelty. It is made of fine suede, and in that peculiar shade of blue which has been so popular throughout the winter. A bright terra cotta glove is another novelty shown for early spring wear. All the shades of tan, from a pale fawn to a delicate brown, are the vogue for this season of the year. A new shade of tan is known as Snyrna, and promises to be much worn with the spring tailor made gown. Fashionable women are wearing both glaze kid and suede gloves. One is quite as popular as the other.

**Appointed Resident Physician.**

Dr. Grace E. White, eldest daughter of Dr. William E. White of Bloomfield, N. J., has been appointed resident physician of the Hospital of St. John's Guild of New York city. Miss White held her acceptance of the position, from Europe, where she was finishing her studies, and started for home on the first steamer.

**She Preached the Sermon.**

The Rev. Dr. Henry Wheeler was to have preached his farewell sermon in the Methodist church of Media, Pa., on a recent Sunday, but was so ill that he was unable to do so. The people got a farewell sermon, however, for his wife took his place in the pulpit and preached an effective sermon appropriate to the occasion.

**FOR LITTLE FOLKS.**

**CHAMPION BUBBLE BLOWER.**

A New York Boy Who Performs Wonders With Soap Water and a Pipe.  
There's a bright little Harlem lad, Max Lee Frank by name, who has reduced bubble blowing to a science. He has made bubbles almost as big as himself, and he has made them as small as a pin head, and they are not bubbles of the sort that last for a second and then burst before one has a fair chance to admire their colors. Something which the champion bubble blower mixes with his soap makes the air globes very firm and lasting. Max has blown bubbles that have floated about the room for more than five minutes, and they have been as full of color as the finest rainbow you ever saw.

Max blew a bubble for The Recorder, Jr., man the other day that certainly was over 2 feet in diameter, and when it was sprung from the bowl of Max's pipe it sailed in the air like a fairy boat and then bounced on the floor like a



football. With a small, flat piece of board, covered with felt, Max coaxed the giant bubble along the floor, rolling it as though made of rubber instead of water, soap and air.

Then the champion bubble maker blew a tiny little globe from his pipe and played baseball with it in a way that would have destroyed an ordinary bubble at the first blow from the boy's hand. Again Max blew a small bubble, keeping it attached to the pipe bowl, handed both pipe and bubble to his brother John, who blew a mouthful of smoke right into the heart of the little globe, making it look like a big pearl.

The next bubble did not seem to affect the bubble in the least, for when it was detached from the pipe it rolled around like a marble, bubbling up against chairs and persisting in remaining whole and sound until a heavy book was dropped on it when the bubble first bended, flattened out and then burst, scattering a small cloud of smoke along the carpet.

Max was loath to tell what it was that he put in the soap that made his bubbles so substantial, but he said any chemist would tell a boy how to mix the magical compound. The last feat that the youthful bubbleologist performed for the reporter was the making of a huge bubble, blown from a long, slender stemmed pipe, after which another bubble, blown from another pipe, was formed all around the first one, thus making a bubble within a bubble—a most wonderful effect. Some day, so Max says, he will make a bubble big enough and tough enough to float in the air above the horsepots and carry with it a little basket like a toy balloon. -New York Recorder.

**Commanding an Army of Ants.**

In one part of China where orange trees grow in great numbers whole armies of ants are marshaled to fight the worms that sometimes spoil the crop. The Chinamen catch the ants by holding a bladder to the opening of their nests and then carrying them to the orchard, where they are placed among the branches of the orange trees. Here they form colonies, and bamboo poles are laid to allow them to pass from tree to tree and demolish the worms.

**A Was Wheelwoman.**

Little Miss Wise, the 4½-year-old daughter of A. A. Wise of Indianapolis, is one of the teeny weeny bicycle riders of the land. The wheel she rides was made expressly for her, and she handles



it with the ease and grace of an old and experienced cyclist. She is the picture of health and happiness, and the gentle exercise of riding the wheel appears in her case to be as beneficial as it is pleasing. -L. A. W. Bulletin.

**For Her Sick Doggie.**

Almost everybody knows that catnip is often given to cats that are indisposed. A 5-year-old little girl, in making up a story about the picture of a sick dog in a book at which she was looking the other day, snited the remedy to the patient by saying that he ought to have some "dognip." -Exchange.

**Walter's Way.**

Little Walter had two apples, for his sister Alice and himself to take to school. He kept the larger one and gave his sister the other, saying, "You know you were born before I was, and have had lots more than me." -Youth's Companion.