

WOMEN'S DREAM

WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW TO MAKE IT

May Manton's Hints Regarding Seasonable Toilettes.

The popularity of the ruffled skirt made from taffeta, either black, gray or beige color, seems to increase as the season advances and it bids fair to take first place for year with waists of various sorts.

The model shown is in a soft shade of gray and is worn with a fancy waist of figured silk, showing bits of pale corn color in conjunction with mousseline de sole of the same tender yellow. The foundation skirt is circular and fits snugly about the hips. The frills, which are five inches in width, are each cut bias and edged with velvet ribbon etched on.



The fancy waist is made over a fitted lining which closes at the centre front, but is itself fitted by shoulder seams and smooth under arm gores and closes below the left side, the basque being separate and seamed to the waist proper. The full mousseline is faced to yoke depth at the back and stitched to the right front but hooks over into place at the left shoulder and beneath the left rever. At the neck is a soft collar of the same, supplemented by a frill. The revers are each faced with gray and are trimmed with tiny ribbon frills which catch the mousseline in shade.

To make this waist for a lady of medium size five yards of material twenty-two inches wide will be required. To cut the skirt fifteen yards of the same width will be required, the ruffles alone calling for eight yards.

Girls' Costumes.

This stylish dress of white organdy is made up over blue lawn linings, the effect being particularly dainty and childlike. Valenciennes lace edging and insertion forms the pretty and inexpensive decoration.

The yoke is made from finely tucked organdy that is sold all ready tucked for this purpose, and is a great help in the development of children's



dress. The full blouse front and gathered back are arranged over a perfectly fitted lining, the yoke being attached at the top. The closing is made invisible in the center back. Graduated frills form bretelles over the shoulders, a band of insertion heading the gathers, and a corresponding band divides the full front from the yoke and extends over the bretelles. The fitting sleeves are banded with four rows of the insertion at equal distances apart, a puff of the organdy being set on at the top and a frill of lace falling from the wrists.

The gored skirt which is a special feature of children's styles this season, is finished at the foot with a straight frill 3 inches in depth, edged with insertion and narrow lace, two bands of insertion, encircling the skirt. The fullness at the back is collected in gathers, and the skirt is sewed to the lower edge of the waist, the bands over the shoulders extending with pointed ends several inches over the top of the skirt in front and back.

It can be made up without the lining in a wear-over-colored slips, as is the fashion in organdies and other figured lawn materials. To make it very sweet with powdered loaf sugar, then bottle.

STUDYING ABROAD.

THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES AMERICAN ARTISTS MUST OVERCOME.

Miss Attale Claire Says That if American Girls Would Devote Themselves to Home Teachers the Result Would be Far More to Their Personal Good and Happiness.

Miss Attale Claire has, since her last appearance with Lillian Russell, devoted four years to study in Italy and Paris.

She has much to say of continental methods, and particularly of musical study in the French capital. Miss Claire does not hesitate to express herself with a frankness which is convincing as it is refreshing. She is particularly opposed to the studying of American girls abroad. She does not consider that they meet with anything like proper consideration or encouragement.

"It would seem," said Miss Claire, "as though professors and students were alike leagued against her. When an American girl unwisely chooses to exhibit her voice before the gazing lights of foreign public opinion it is not criticised on its own merits, but upon the personal attractiveness and other charms of its owner. The student is forced to undergo an unfavorable comparison with those of superior talent of the past and present. It is scornfully eyed and besmudged and has been relegated to bitter obscurity. Her chance, she has powerful friends with an unlimited amount of money, and influence. The teacher makes study a torture instead of a pleasure. They have a custom set of rules from which they allow no deviation.

"You must not go out at night. You must not dance. It dries your voice and weakens your vocal cords. You must not speak in the open air after singing. It gives you sore throat. You must not eat certain fruits or vegetables. It makes you hoarse. You must walk lot, and frequently to keep up your strength. You must renounce all your friends in order to have time to work.

"Finally," continued Miss Claire, "you must hope against hope, because you must work against people who are ahead of you through their special talent for the base of intrigues with utter lack of refinement, with nothing holy or reverent in their purposes, with but one single idea in their souls—to be seen. Art to them is nothing, publicity everything. The one is simply a means to the end. American girl students in last year's coats and hats, their countenances pale and pinched with want, their eyes and lips sharpened with expectancy, throng the studios and haunt the offices of the impresarios. American pluck is proverbial in Paris musical circles.

"It is needless for me to remind you of the experiences of either Sibyl Sanderson or Marie Van Zandt. Their bitter trials turned the light of publicity upon the detestable power of the French clique and hatred of foreigners. But where these shining examples have finally conquered all opposition there are 9,999 American girls who every year are forced to retire beaten, discouraged and world-weary. Right here in Boston this was brought home to you the other day, where a young lady of family well-known and honored, had fruitlessly thrown away 12 years of her life in pursuing the musical will-of-the-wisp of Parisian musical study. Small wonder that she attempted suicide crossing the Atlantic.

"If American girls would but devote to home teachers and home study a tithe of the energy and ambition with which they pursue their musical life abroad, the result would be not only far more to their own personal good and happiness, but it would build up in this country a class of students and singers better voiced, and of purer lives than what are found abroad."

Proper Way to Mark Linen.

The "monogram hieroglyphics" which puzzled housekeepers are no longer fashionable in linen marking, the simple Roman letters, embroidered plainly, having taken their place. Plain script is also in good taste, and the work is done in a simple satin stitch on both table cloths and napkins. Bedclothes should have the name simply and clearly written in indelible ink, though towels are sometimes embroidered with the owner's initials.

It has been universally decided by women of good taste that the proper place to mark table linen is to embroider it with the initials of the house just below the hem and in the centre of the "breadth," the size of the initial to be one inch for tablecloths and half an inch for napkins.

Carving cloths and corn and hot potato napkins have the initials of the hostess sometimes wrought out below the hem or fringe, but it is considered better form to have them in dainty patterns that will be characteristic enough without the marking.

It is certainly in bad taste to make a display of one's initials or monogram; even silver should be unobtrusive in its lettering.

The best marking for the linen closet is to keep it in good order.

A Delicious Beverage.

Raspberry-vinegar is a delicious beverage mixed with iced water. Put a quart of ripe red raspberries in a bowl; pour on them a quart of good, strong vinegar—let them stand twenty-four hours, strain them through a bag, put this liquid on another quart of fresh raspberries, which strain in the same manner—and then on a third quart. When this last is prepared, make it very sweet with powdered loaf sugar, then bottle.

A DISTINGUISHED WOMAN.

Mrs. Ledyard Stevens and Her Work in the Paris Exposition.

Mrs. Ledyard Stevens, president of the commission of women who are working for a woman's department at the Paris exposition of 1900, is one of New York's leading spirits among progressive women. She is a native of South Carolina, and toward the close of the civil war was sent as a child to her grandmother, Mrs. John W. Chandler in New York, on a special pass issued by General Sherman.

Through the Chandler branch of the family Mrs. Stevens is a line descendant of John Winthrop, governor of the colony of Massachusetts. She is also descended from Peter Stuyvesant, the



Dutch governor of New Amsterdam. Through her father, Dr. Octavius White, she is connected with the best families of the south.

Mrs. Stevens is a paragon of fashion and is eminently fitted in an intellectual and social way for the large and important work she has undertaken.

Home-Made Skin Tonics.

Greyness of the skin generally arises from lack of cleanliness or debility of the skin. Only an astringent has an effect upon it, and a very simple and entirely harmless one may be made from one pint of rosewater, half a pint of white wine vinegar and a few drops of the essence of rose. This lotion should be applied with a soft linen rag or a fine sponge.

Blackheads are difficult to get rid of once they appear. They are caused by the clogging of the pores of the skin by dust or foreign matter. Alcohol, 90 per cent, applied by means of a piece of cambric silk, will give tone to the skin and remove unsuspected dust and dirt, at the same time stimulating the small glands and removing, by constant use, the blackheads.

Tan and freckles may be removed by the following lotion: Two drachms of powdered sal ammoniac, four fluid drachms of cologne water, one quart of distilled water. As home remedies both lemon juice and borax are very efficacious for the same purpose.

For some skins which cannot stand constant washing, but needing to be cleansed after a walk or ride by other means than soap and water, lat virginial is a delicious preparation and is made as follows: One pint of rose, orange-flower or elder-flower water, half an ounce of the simple tincture of benzoin and ten drops of the tincture of myrrh.

After exposure to a harsh or chilling wind it is well before retiring to rub a quantity of fresh cream on the face, removing after five or ten minutes, to be again applied, followed by a generous puffing of rice powder. Remove in the morning by lalt virginal and tepid water.

Queen Wilhelmina.

Queen Wilhelmina's well-known disinclination to provide Holland with a prince consort by marrying is said by knowing ones in European courts to have a tangible practical reason.

The young Queen is now eighteen years old and is to be formally crowned this year and assume control of the fat, rich little kingdom so long administered by Queen Regent Emma. Not having yet tasted the bitter with the sweets of power, Wilhelmina is in no hurry as yet to contemplate giving up the reins of the kingdom.

If she should marry and begin at once, in the provident Dutch way, supplying Holland with heirs of the royal house, some of them would doubtless be boys. The eldest son of Queen Wilhelmina would, upon his eighteenth year, succeed her on the throne.

The Dutch law does not contemplate the possibility of such a case as that of Queen Victoria, who has ruled for thirty-five years beyond the legal majority of the English Crown Prince. If this were the law of Holland possibly Wilhelmina would have less objection to matrimony.

The Gamut of Souvenirs.

A housekeeper who dotes on "collections," and who has run the gamut of souvenir spoons, jugs, cups, beer mugs and candle-sticks, is now turning her attention to plates, and pronounces it the most fascinating of all. "One never can have too many plates," she declares, "and everywhere you go you are sure to find a variety of pretty and artistic ones to choose from."

Woolen Nets.

A woolen net is a decidedly new fabric, and unlike in pattern are some awfully fetching fabrics that seem to be of silk and wool, very soft and clinging to the touch, and in various netlike or lacelike meshes. These are quite the smartest things possible built over soft satins in closely clinging draperies.

THE CLUB AND SALON.

ARE THE WOMEN OF TO-DAY TAKING TOO MUCH INTEREST IN THEM?

Mrs. Amelia Gere Mason Thinks American Women, With Their Splendid Initiative and Boundless Aspirations, Are Assuming Too Much Responsibility.

In the Century there is an article on "Club and Salon," by Mrs. Amelia Gere Mason, author of "Women of the French Salon." Mrs. Mason says:

Of women's clubs there is literally no end, and they are yet in their vigorous youth. We have literary clubs, and art clubs, and musical clubs, clubs for science, and clubs for philanthropy, parliamentary clubs and suffrage clubs, and anti-suffrage clubs—clubs of every variety and every grade, from the luncheon club with its delicate menu and the more pretentious chartered club that aims at mastering a scheme of the world to the simple working girls' club, which is content with something less, and all in the sacred name of culture. They multiply federate hold conventions, organize congresses and many form a vast educational system that is fast checking old ideas and opening possibilities of which no prophetic eye can see the end. That they have unobtrusively raised the average standard of intelligence and that they have a large number of able and interesting women who have generously taken upon themselves not only their own share of the work of the world, but a great deal more.

One can hardly overrate the value of an institution which has given light and an upward impulse to so many lives, and changed the complexion of society so distinctly for the better. But it may be worth while to ask if the women of to-day with their ardent initiative and boundless aspirations are not going a little too fast, getting entangled in too much machinery, losing their individuality in masses, assuming more responsibility than they can well carry. Why is it that lines too deep for harmonious thought are so early writing themselves on the strong tense mobile, and delicate faces of American women? Why is it that the pure joy of life seems to be lost in the restless and insatiable passion for multitudes, so often thinly disguised as love for knowledge, which is not seldom little more than the shell and husk of things?

Is the pursuit of culture degenerating into a pursuit of clubs, and are we taking for ourselves new taskmasters more pitiless than the old? "The emancipation of woman is fast becoming her slavery," said one who was caught in the whirl of the social machinery and could find no point of repose. We pride ourselves on our liberty, but the true value of liberty is to leave people free from a pressure that prevents their fullest growth. What do we gain if we simply exchange one tyranny for another? Apart from the fact that the finest flowers of culture do not spring from a soil that is constantly turned, any more than they do from a soil that is not turned at all, it is a question of human limitations, of living so as to continue to live, of growing so as to matter to individuals. Societies, too, exhaust themselves, and those which reach an exaggerated growth in a day are apt to perish in a day. It is not the first time in the history of the world that there has been a brilliant reign of intelligence among women, though perhaps there was never one so widely spread as now. Why have they ended in more or less violent reactions? We may not be able to answer the question satisfactorily, but it gives us food for reflection.

Her Secret Signal.

Nervous housewives whose husbands frequently bring home company to dinner without preliminary warning often worry in their secret hearts for fear there may not be food enough to supply the unexpected guests. A matron living in one of the prettiest suburban residences in West Philadelphia, whose husband persists in bringing home guests at the most inopportune times, has hit upon a happy expedient to meet possible emergencies.

In passing any dishes at the table of which there may be a limited supply the hostess makes a point to mention the enigmatical letters "F. H. B." in such a manner as not to attract the attention of the guests around the board. Immediately the members of the family are aware of the circumstances and discreetly partake very lightly, if at all, of the viands in question. The secret of the three letters was solved by a quick-witted guest a few days ago, and the hostess afterward laughingly confessed her little scheme. "F. H. B." in this instance stands for "family hold back."

Rubber Plants.

Every week sponge your rubber plant with tobacco juice. Take a plug of tobacco, pour water over it, and when the water becomes deeply colored wipe the leaves off with a sponge dipped in the juice. This will give them a wax-like appearance and is good for the plant. Every two or three weeks dig about the roots of the plant and pour in a teaspoonful of castor oil.

Never let the temperature of the dining room rise above sixty-five degrees; sixty degrees is not too low. If the lights and the number of people in the room raise it after the meal has begun, lower the windows slightly from the top.

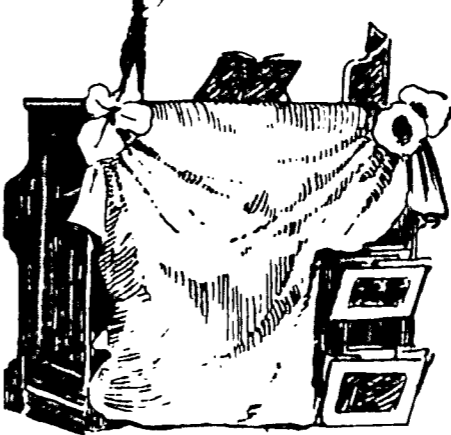
HOUSEHOLD TALKS

Rules to Observe When Buying Prunes.

When buying prunes, the California prunes will be found more satisfactory and far cleaner than the foreign fruit. Do not soak them over night, as that allows the prunes to break, while the syrup is not so clear. They should, however, be carefully washed, one by one, in tepid water, allowing them to stand in the water two or three minutes to "plump." Follow this by a second washing, then put in the saucpan, allowing a cup and a half of water to every cup of prunes. Simmer slowly on the back of the range or in the oven for two hours and a half, never allowing them to boil. If desired, sugar may be added, but the long slow cooking brings out the natural sweetness of the fruit and is approved now by first class cooks. Prunes treated in this way emerge lustrous, tender sweet, and with the real prune flavor totally at variance with the partly dried prune of the average boarding house.

Securing a Piano Back.

The back of an upright piano nowadays is always turned toward the room on account of the superior acoustic advantages of its flat surface. The arrangement of its flat surface therefore becomes a serious subject for decorative consideration. It goes without saying that it must be draped, but this requires a skilful touch to do it gracefully, especially as a table placed against the board is apt to interfere with the tone.



A PRETTY PIANO BACK EFFECT.

A pretty arrangement is shown in the accompanying sketch. The drapery of embroidered Chinese silk is held at the two corners with fans, those on the left being of peacock feathers, and on the right of small Oriental bridged and embroidered straws. A couple of portfolios, with the boards covered with brocade embossed with gold and silver, are arranged to hold music, and are affixed to the left side of the piano above the other with ribbons to hold the outside lid slightly open.

An Invalid's Dish.

Prepare a young pigeon and lay it in a stew-pan containing equal parts of milk and white stock seasoned and boiling slowly. No fat must be on it. Simmer the pigeon in this for half an hour, then take it out, thicken the sauce, boil it up and serve round the bird. A few peppercorns and a small onion are a great improvement to this dish.

Model Dish Towels.

A servant is much more likely to be fastidious in her dish washing and careful with dish towels if she is provided with proper ones in the beginning. The ideal cloth for washing dishes is made by taking a square of cheese cloth, doubling it twice (making it four thicknesses) and quilting it in large meshes on the sewing machine. This makes a towel soft, thick, agreeable to handle and easily kept white.

Kitchen Aid.

A double chopping knife should find its way into every well-equipped kitchen. Upon the theory that time is money, how much of it is wasted in chopping apples for the mincemeat, suet for the pudding, or ham for sandwiches, with a single-bladed, old-fashioned chopper that will only do half the work of a double one in the same time!

Luncheon Made Easy.

An appetizing dish for luncheon or supper, that requires neither great outlay of time, strength or money, is salmon loaf. To one can of salmon allow four crackers rolled fine, two well-beaten eggs, one-half cupful sweet milk, butter the size of an egg, salt and pepper to taste. Mix thoroughly, put in greased cans and steam one hour.

The Pincushion Popular Again.

The pincushion, for awhile superannuated and retired from active service, is again out in force, and much larger than life. Many of the new cushions are almost the size of the top of the dressing table, and as ornate as fancy can devise and fingers execute.

When Making Curry.

Meats left from beef tea should be saved for use when making curry. The water draws out the favoring and the stimulating principles of the beef, but the fibre, which contains the greater part of the nourishment, is left undissolved.

Standard Facts in Cooking.

All dry materials should be sifted before measuring. A speck is what you can take on the tip of a penknife. A cup holding just half a pint is the standard measuring cup. Half a spoonful is measured by dividing through the middle lengthwise.

LONDON'S LATEST PASTIME.

Fencing as an After-Dinner Amusement for Ladies.

Fencing promises to become more and more of a fashionable pastime in London, especially among the fair sex. The authority for this statement is Mr. McPherson, a professor of the art, who is just now taking part in a series of brilliant assaults d'armes in Paris, and whose presence among the champion swordsmen has given rather an international aspect to some of the bouts.

"In addition to the usual orthodox displays in the fencing rooms in London," he told a Daily Mail representative, "it is becoming frequent to see after-dinner bouts in the circles of the elite between a couple of expert fencers engaged for the occasion—a form of amusement which may yet disturb the serenity of the other lions, the German pianist and the Italian violinist."

"There is especially a movement among the fair sex strongly in favor of the folla. After all, nothing is more graceful in the world than the silhouette lunge brilliantly executed in a short skirt and gymnastic shoes. And besides, the exercise develops muscle, and that's what the sex goes in for nowadays."

"At least one lady fencer, Miss Lowther," continued Mr. McPherson, "is more than a match for the best amateur in England, and the quality of most of the professors. She has practiced fencing almost from childhood. More than one lady in London teaches the art and altogether there are more ladies practicing fencing in London than men. This result is partly due to the enthusiastic advocacy of the folla by lady Colin Campbell, who is herself an expert. Mrs. Langtry is, of course, well known as another, and other actresses less known are diligent students."

"The Italian school of fencing prevails rather too much in London, and as the reproduction is only more or less like the original, London fencing leaves much to be desired. Certain amateurs, however, stand out brilliantly—Capt. Hutton, Mr. Egerton-Castle, and Sir Charles Dilke. The last named is indefatigable, and is well known in Paris for his prowess."

"Paris is, after all," he added, "the home of the folla. Whereas there are hardly more than half a dozen good salles d'armes in London there are some hundred and fifty in Paris, and the virtuosity of the exponents is pretty much in the same ratio. Rue, Prevost, Kirchoffer, Conte the Italian, and young Desmet, the Belgian, are the present stars of the professional firmament."

"Latterly in France the folla have yielded in some quarters to the dueling sword, in which the play is notably different. Thomgeux, for instance, who fought Pini, is not a marvel with the folla, but one of the most redoubtable of opponents with the sword, and especially when the wigs are on the green."

"There is a prospect of London seeing some of the champions mentioned at a tournament to take place at one of the sporting clubs."

Hygienic Five O'Clock Tea.

No woman with any regard for her digestion will drink tea at an afternoon reception unless she arrives just after the samovar has been lighted and sees the teamaker put the fragrant herb in the pot. When tea is left standing for hours, as is usually the case at an afternoon at home, it becomes tannic acid pure and simple, and is almost as effective in wearing away the coating of the stomach as any other corrosive poison. For promoting indigestion and gastric disturbances tea that has "cooked" for a whole afternoon is quite unexcelled by even bakers' pies or hot biscuits.

A clever device introduced at a woman's club to obviate the calamity of every member becoming a dyspeptic is the tarlatan tea ball. A sufficient quantity of tea to make a teapot full of the cheering beverage is placed in the teapot. The tea is enclosed in a little bag of tarlatan and as soon as the liquid has "drawn" the bag is fished out and thrown away. When the teapot is empty a new tea bag is put in, and fresh tea made. One result of this hygienic precaution is that the club in question evinces as much interest in its 5 o'clock rite as it does in speeches and discussions, thus bringing the members into closer touch with each other than they would be if all their time and energies were expended in political potter.

How to Guard Beauty.

A clever writer says worry is a mortal enemy to beauty and charm of manner. This is undeniably true. Worry over the inevitable is not only a wrinkle inducer and frown instigator, but it is a senseless and wicked rebellion against what cannot be helped. Worry clouds the eyes, makes the voice sharp and impatient, puts hard lines about the mouth and destroys repose and gentleness of manner. Whatever is, is best. Therefore one would best control one's feelings and learn as soon as possible to know that bright eyes, sweet voices and smiles about the mouth will add much to one's beauty and to one's circle of friends.

Watercross Sauce.

Watercross sauce is made by stewing chopped watercross in butter for ten minutes, then adding a pinch of salt, the same of pepper, the same also of mustard and a spoonful of vinegar. Beat till quite smooth with a wooden spoon, then add the gravy from the roasting joint. This is served in a sauce-tureen, and is a pleasant change from ordinary gravy.