

# WOMEN'S REALM

## MORNING ROBES.

Frothy and Graceful Designs to Wear in the Bedroom—Two Materials Used.

A morning robe that is both pretty and graceful to slip on while arranging the toilette is made of light weight flannel striped with a broad band of old rose and a tiny one of green on a background of pale yellow. Nine yards of material are required to make such a gown for a person of medium height with half a yard of rose, green or deep cream for the yoke and band around the foot of the skirt. This morning gown may be made on a wrapper pattern if care is taken to curve the seams so that there will be a graceful flare in the bang of the



MORNING ROBE.

The sides and back of the waist skirt closely while the front falls loose. A cord to match the yoke finished with a large round ball confines the robe at the waist.

The brilliant yoke is almost round and the neck is finished with a band of the same material or ribbon. The sleeves are very long and flowing, slightly smaller than angel sleeves, and like the foot of the skirt are bordered with a three-inch band of the brilliantine.

## An Evening Gown.

The ostrich tip has superseded the aigrette in the evening coiffure. As here illustrated it should droop over the bang. The hair must puff a little back of the ears and under the knot.



OSTRICH TIP COIFFURE.

and the fashionable curls must fall on the neck, but they should be longer than here pictured if the neck is very long.

## Fashion and Its End.

Fashion is a two-fold movement. In its large evolution a type dominates for some generations or so, with modification so slow as to be unperceived, the result of social conditions prevailing in the civilized world, forming the drift that is referred to above that is not controlled; in its special action it is a variation from season to season and from day to day, a constant individual creation on the same general theme. This second movement is the one that is popularly recognized. It is due to woman's present social status, which forces her to constant effort to set herself off from other women, or to emulate other women, by her dress, or to distinguish herself from the masses of men by force or by intellect. She and she alone has the right of singularity, that is to say distinction from others, and with women distinction by beauty.

## Canned Fruit.

Canned fruit should be emptied immediately after opening. Often a most generous acid is formed by the chemical action of the air upon the solder of the can. It is this acid, indeed, that is responsible for much of the rancid odor against canned food. Many of the reported accidents have been traced to this form of kitchen care.

## Choose Yours.

A bride always starts in by giving her husband half the clothes, but within three weeks all his clothes will be hanging on her nails.

## PORTO RICO WOMEN

CURIOS CUS OMS OF FEMALES IN THE LAND WHERE NO ONE WALKS.

They Ride to Church on Horses and Smoke Big Black Cigars—Some of Them Are Beautiful Beauties That Are Won for Ornament—A Beautiful Picture.

No one ever walks in Porto Rico. The mule's the thing there. The better classes use the English side saddle, although a few prefer the more picturesque and safer, but less graceful, Spanish saddle. In the country districts the pillion is occasionally employed, while among the lower classes many women ride astride without exciting comment. When the natives are both pretty and good riders they display considerable coquetry in the saddle.

I noticed one rider near Juma Diaz a writer says who took my mind back to the old days of chivalry. She was a lovely girl of about fifteen or sixteen, with a face like a Madonna and a figure like an artist's model. One little foot crept out beneath her silk riding skirt, and to my surprise it was devoid of hosiery. The skin was like polished gold of an exquisite tint. It was shod with a slipper of satin or silk, embroidered in color, and had an arching bustle which made the foot all the more charming by its setting.

The time to see the women at their best is on Sunday morning, when they ride from their homes to mass in the nearest church or cathedral. On one Sunday morning, while riding leisurely into a small village on my way to this town, I met a crowd of worshipers on their way to mass. Nearly all the women were on mule-back and sat or lolled as if they were in an easy chair in their own homes. A few, probably wealthier than the others or else deficient in health, were accompanied by little dark boys, who held over their own parasols or an umbrella.

On Sunday each woman wears a huge rosary, sometimes so large as to be uncomfortable. I saw several that were so unwieldy that they went over the shoulders and formed a huge line, larger indeed than a string of sleigh bells. These are ornamental rosaries and are not used for prayer. The praying rosary is as small and dainty as those used by fashionable women in our own Roman Catholic churches.

Besides the fan and the rosary every woman was provided with a neat and often handsomely bound prayer book and a huge lighted cigar or cigarette. This is indeed the land for women who love the weed. A few smoke cigarettes and pipes, but a majority like pajamas, perfectos, Napoleons and other rolls of the weed larger than those used by men in our own land. They smoke them at home and in the streets, at the table or on the balcony, in hammocks, or lying on the steers, and only desist when within the sacred walls of the church. The moment mass is over and they emerge into the sunlight the first thing they do is to light a fresh cigar and then climb into the saddle.

They make a beautiful picture upon the roads. Imagine an intensely blue sky above, with below rich green vegetation and startling dashes of scarlet, crimson, vermilion, orange and white from the flowers which seem to bloom the year through, setting off the bright hues of the costumes. It combines the picturesque side of New Orleans life, of Florida scenery, of the Maine lake country and of the New Hampshire hills.

Instead of being dissatisfied with their lot, women with red hair should study how to use it becomingly and be proud of the distinction it denotes. There appears to be an impression among women with red hair that almost any shade of blue can be worn by them, because, as a usual thing, they have fair and delicate complexions. But, as a matter of fact, blue is the one color above others that ought to be avoided. The contrast is too violent and the combination is not harmonious. The shades most suitable to wear with red hair are bright, sunny brown and all autumn leaf tints. After these may be selected pale or very dark green, pale yellow and black mixed with any other color. Mixed colors are not becoming to red haired people, as they nearly always give them a more or less dowdy appearance. In fact, red hair is usually so brilliant and decided that it must be met on its own ground, and no vague, undecided sort of things should be worn with it.

What Some Girls Do.

Here are a few unusual occupations recently developed by self-reliant young women:

One runs a blacksmith shop.

One goes out shampooing ladies' hair.

One does house-to-house mending and a bit of shopping.

One "suggests" tasteful fabrics and make-ups for wealthy women of no taste.

One goes about as a professional packer of ladies' trunks.

Several superintend the preparation of large fashionable dinners.

A number are well-known as professional directresses of house-cleaning establishments where brace-abrac, pictures, etc., require much care.

Antiseptic Gloves.

In these days of bacilli and microbes one is constantly in danger of her life. To be handed change by a car conductor or a bundle of bills in a store is to be handed so many thousand germs of disease. But a remedy has been found by which Madame and Monsieur may be entirely immune from microbes. The antiseptic glove is the very latest fad among microb maniacs. They come in dainty kid and larger sizes for men.

A Royal Typewriter.

The carlin of Russia is of a practical turn of mind, and uses the typewriter with facility. She can type fifty words a minute. The frame of her machine is laid with mother of pearl, and the bars are of gold.

Times Change.

A bride always starts in by giving her husband half the clothes, but within three weeks all his clothes will be hanging on her nails.

## THE MUFF IN HISTORY.

Carried by Fair Women for Many Centuries.

In many sixteenth century portraits one sees wound around the wrist of a noble dame a piece of rich, soft fur, which was used to cover the neck or to furnish the functions of a muff. To this is often attached some little fantasy, an animal's head, a skull, perhaps, cleverly wrought and adorned with precious stones.

Like many another article of dress, the muff was at first the exclusive property of the gentry, but when it appeared in Venice it was carried by courtesans as well as by women of the highest rank. The Venetian muffs were very small, made of a single piece of velvet, broad or silk, lined with fur, the openings fastened with buttons of gold and silver enriched with precious stones.

By 1822 the muff seems to have been recognized as a necessary adjunct of the wardrobe of a lady of fashion. In Evelyn's "Mundus Muliebris," written at this time, numbers of gowns, "boddies," shoe buckles, of perumed gloves, "jouquill, tube rose, fraughan, orange, violet, narcissus, jessamin, ambrett, and some of chicken skin for night to keep her hands plump, soft and white," are enumerated, and also "three muffs of ermine, sable, gray."

It is noted that my lady has no black muffs. Many years before Charles IX. "Fidgely Kilijer" as he was called, regulated the costumes of the classes, the bourgeoisie to use black muffs, and only the woman of rank to carry those of various colors.

At the time of the national convention in Paris the muffs were large and flat, fantastic as were all the fashions of that time. In colonial days in America they were also very large, but round.

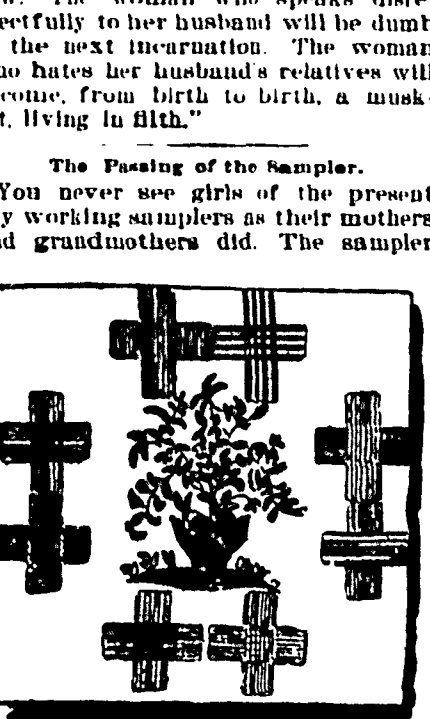
In an old "Dictionnaire Amoureux" the muff is defined as "a letter box lined with white satin."

Woman in India.

The present position of women cannot be better shown than by the following extract from a government prize book for the girls' schools in the Bombay presidency. "If the husband of a virtuous woman be ugly, of good or bad disposition, diseased, spendthrift, drunkard, old, stupid, deaf, blind, deaf, hot tempered, poor, extremely covetous, an idler, cowardly, perfidious, and unamoral, nevertheless she ought to worship him as a god, with mild speech and person. The wife who gives an angry answer to her husband will become a village pariah dog; she will also become a female jackal and live in an uninhabited desert. The woman who eats sweetmeats without sharing them with her husband will become a hen and live in a hollow tree. The woman who walks alone without her husband will become a fifth ending village sow. The woman who speaks disrespectfully to her husband will be dumb in the next incarnation. The woman who hates her husband's relatives will become, from birth to birth, a unearl, living in filth."

The Passing of the Sampler.

You never see girls of the present day working samplers as their mothers and grandmothers did. The sampler



DARNED SAMPLER OF 1768.

was the aesthetic article of a half-century ago. It was worked on coarse



DARNED SAMPLER OF 1797.

canvas with colored yarns in all sorts of wall-paper designs and in grotesque alphabets.

To Cultivate Grace.

Grace and beauty of form are within the reach of nearly every woman. It is said of the great actress, Rachel, that she was an ugly specimen of womanhood in the beginning of her career and was thoroughly aware of her shortcomings. In an hour of disgust she determined to bring about a change for the better, in what manner she did not know. As a beginning she started to study beauty in every form—to copy poses and face expressions from famous pictures and supplemented it with an amount of car bestowal upon her person. She came to be known as a beauty as well as a genius, and never regretted the time and patience spent in the battle with ugliness.

The Royal Initial.

In a certain class of Russian schools the highest reward given is the initial letter of the Empress's name. It consists of the initial in solid gold, an inch and a quarter in height, on a blue bow. Should its possessor ever become a governess, it will entitle her to a higher salary than she could otherwise obtain.

Benefits of Education.

Misses (angrily)—"See, Bridget, I can write my name in the dust on this mantlepiece."

Bridget (admiringly)—"There's nothing like education, after all, is there, miss?"

## THE WAYS OF WOOING

ARE THE SAME IN MOST COUNTRIES THEY WERE CENTURIES AGO.

Custom Which Never Dies—Sponges Decide the Destiny of Hindu Brides—Sweet Simplicity in Burma—Where the Bride's Ears Are Holed—A Bridal Collection.

The wooing of a woman in many countries varies not a whit from the customs and ceremonies in vogue when the world was very young. For example, now, as centuries ago, a bonfire plays an important part of every wedding celebrated in Paris, the marriage ceremony being held before one.

The planting of a fir tree is one of the ceremonies attending a Swedish wedding, which usually lasts several days. A peasant bride is adorned with her friends' trinkets, bracelets, necklaces and rings, which they hang upon her head, neck, arms, bodice and even upon her shoes. Then a silver ring is placed in one shoe for good luck.

In Norway the bride does not wear a wedding veil, but a big head-dress, which towers high above her brow.

Bulgaria all newly married women are obliged to remain dumb for a month after marriage, except when addressed by their husbands. When it is desirable to remove this restriction permanently the husband presents her with a gift, and then she can chatter to her heart's content.

If a girl marries in Russia without the consent of her parents she is sent to prison and deprived of her share of the family property.

In Lithuania, a province of Russia, it is customary that the bride should be boxed before the marriage ceremony. No matter how tender-hearted the mother may be, she makes it a point to administer a hearty smack to her daughter in the presence of witnesses, and a note is made of the fact. The mother's intention is a kind one, as the reason for it is to protect the bride should her marriage prove an unhappy one. In that case she will sue for a divorce, and her plea will be that she was forced into the marriage against her will, and on that score the verdict of the judge will be in her favor.

Of all the marriage rites of which one ever heard, those of Burma bear away the palm for consciousness and sweet simplicity. Here it is upon the dusky lady that the pleasing duties of courtship devolve. She sees a youth whom she deems calculated to make her happy, and forthwith offers him a stick of candy. If he accepts her proposal he promptly cuts the token of affection, and they are thereby made man and wife. There is no further ceremony and no witnesses are necessary. In the act of eating about this most primitive marriage rite consists. But if, on the contrary, the youth is not willing he assures her that that particular kind of candy is not to his taste, and the maiden must seek elsewhere for one more appreciative of her candy and of her affections.

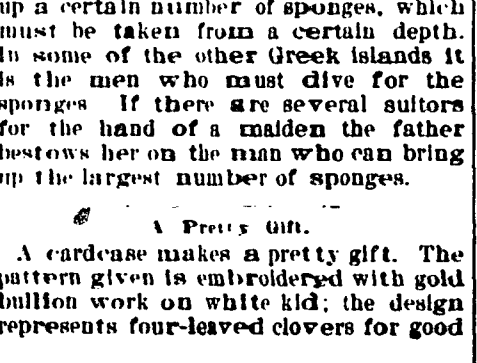
In Hungary in certain rural districts, a very curious custom prevails, which is very popular among the maidens who are not possessed of a dowry. On the morning of her wedding it is the custom of the bride to wash the hands and faces of the assembled guests, who in return throw into the basin used for these ablutions a certain sum of money, which the dowryless bride appropriates to her own use.

The simplest and perhaps the most impressive marriage ceremony is that in use among the Cherokee Indians. The couple join hands over a running stream, which is symbolic of the desire that their lives shall thereafter flow on in the same channel.

An odd marriage custom obtains in the island of Hixia, opposite the island of Rhodes. The Greeks, by whom it is peopled earn their living by the sponge fisheries. No girl is allowed to marry until she has brought up a certain number of sponges, which must be taken from a certain depth. In some of the other Greek islands it is the men who must dive for the sponges. If there are several suitors for the hand of a maiden the father bestows her on the man who can bring up the largest number of sponges.

A Press's Gift.

A cardcase makes a pretty gift. The pattern given is embroidered with gold bullion work on white kid; the design represents four-leaved clovers for good



WHITE KID CARD CASE.

luck, one of which is given in detail in the natural size, to show the stitch. The embroidered leaf is surrounded by gold beads, and a gold paillette marks the centre.

A Complexion Beautifier.

Hot milk is the newest panacea for all complexion ills. If the face be wrinkled, shallow, freckled or otherwise afflicted, hot milk, says the enthusiast over this new remedy, will produce a cure. Converts declare that the face after being washed with hot milk at night, feels wonderfully refreshed, while the skin soon becomes very white and soft. They also claim that a generous quantity of milk poured into the bath is positively magical in removing fatigue.

Three Types of Women.

The average height of the French woman is 5 feet, 1 inch. The American women are nearly 2 inches taller, and the women of Great Britain 1/2 inch taller than their American sisters.

## CUT FLOWERS.

How to Make Them Retain Their Beauty and Freshness.

Flowers treated properly can last and look well even after six weeks, thus taking from them their only reproach, and rendering them possibly pleasures for the poorest. Every night take them out of the vase and thoroughly rinse the stalks under the tap, removing with the fingers any recomposed matter. Then place them to bed for the night in a basin of strong soap-suds. Be careful not to allow any water to touch the blossoms, as this only fades them. The soap-suds supply a certain amount of nourishment. In the morning rinse the stalks under the water again, and as each blossom is arranged for the day in the vase of fresh water snip off the thickest possible portion of the stalk with a pair of scissors. Always carefully trim away any faded portion. Food for the day is supplied by sulphate of ammonia, a small quantity of which can be bought from the chemist for a few pennies. If he knows his business, he will be able to tell you that sulphate of ammonia contains all the properties of good manure for keeping the blossoms alive. A few drops in each vase is quite sufficient. Indeed, if you use the soap-suds at night, as well as the sulphate of ammonia in the day, some intervals must be spent by the flowers in nothing but clear cold water. It is possible to kill with kindness, remember. Put the flowers at night into some dark, cool place—say, a scullery or pantry—as it is not good either for the flowers or the household that they should remain altogether in the living room. To revive flowers put them into warm salt water, to which has been added a few drops of sulphate of ammonia. To keep a spray of arranged flowers, place on damp cotton wool under a basin. This keeps the air away and preserves the blossoms. The fragile, delicate maiden hair fern is best treated in this way.

## ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS.

Artificial flowers are fashionable this year and none is more so than the pot of chrysanthemums which bloom so gaily all winter in the front window. These are not made out of paper as of yore, but out of silk tissue which comes for the purpose. It is well to buy one artificial flower in order to make the others. A great deal of care must be put upon the stems, for these are delicate and will give away your skill unless you make them artificially in building your chrysanthemum bush be careful that flowers of only

one color grow on a single stem and remember that pink and white flowers are not seen together. All must shade toward the same color, although in chrysanthemum a wide range is possible, going all the way from deep red to a bright pink. Flowers shading in this manner are often seen growing upon one stalk.

"Set out" your chrysanthemum bush in the handsomest pot you can find and dust it every day so that the leaves will be ever-shiny.

Household Hints.

If you are nervous, you cannot cut too much celery and lettuce.

Never ask a patient what he wants to eat. Ask the doctor, and then prepare it just as nicely as you know how.

It really does the finger ends of the glove more harm than the buttonholes to fasten the buttoned glove in a hurry.

Perfumes are always fashionable, but not all perfumes. Use the delicate scents discreetly and you are right in style.

If you perfume your sofa pillows, use a very delicate perfume as the heavy odors are doubly disagreeable when confined in a close, warm room.

Better absent yourself from a festive occasion than to go there with a long face. And if you do, dress in accordance with the surroundings you will find there.

The Romans used to crush the leaves of the verbena in their palms and anoint themselves after a bath. The perfume is said to be of benefit to the brain worker.

Some of the Uses of Lemons.

Very manifold are the uses of a lemon. They relieve, it is said, in cases of rheumatism, and the juice of half a one in a cupful of un-sweetened black coffee, if taken at the commencement, will often remove a sick headache. Fine white sugar mixed thickly with lemon juice is good for a relaxed throat, and also for taking away cough. For the latter it may also be mixed with equal quantities of glycerine and brandy. If rubbed over any part suffering from neuralgia pain, a lemon is said to afford relief; and it whitens and softens chapped hands. The rind placed in a water-garment has a soothing effect that is very beneficial.

Appetite that is falling may be roused by the juice of half a lemon being taken in a tumbler of warm water. It is also good to be given in the case of worms; and rubbed on corns will help to make them disappear. If, of course, whatever first brought them on, such as tight or ill made footwear be discarded. Those who suffer from chilblains are advised to try the same simple remedy.

Stains on ivory can be removed by its use, as also spots of iron on white materials; and, finally, half a lemon which has been well squeezed, if rubbed on brushes, cleans and brightens them most satisfactorily.

To Hang Portieres.

Portieres should be on rings and move readily, and quickly over the pole, the arrangements of the cords that draw them aside instantaneously being preferred. Their design should be simple, solid colors of a neutral tint being the most acceptable. They should not hang in a doorway where the doors are open and set back. They sometimes cover acceptably a door that must be closed, but otherwise they replace a door that is removed. Their texture, while thick, should be soft and pliable, hanging in easy folds.

The Mikado's Decree.

The Mikado of Japan has recently issued a decree permitting Japanese women to live a single life if they so desire. Heretofore, if they remained unmarried after a certain age the law took the matter in hand and husbands were found for them.

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At Last a Pocket.

The originators of fashions have solved a problem which has puzzled women ever since women's watches were first made. They have devised a new pocket for dresses. That pocket is a watch pocket, and it is located on the inner part of the left sleeve, mid-

way between the waist and the elbow. The little pocket, from the outside of which a circular piece the size of the watch face has been cut out, is conveniently seen and can be readily reached by the right hand. The flap of the pocket is padded with soft material, so care is practically no danger of breaking the watch. Many designs for beautifying the pocket are noticed. In most cases the rim of the circular through which the face shows is richly embroidered with gold or silver thread.

The watch is slipped into the pocket from the side, and buttons secure it from falling out. As in the case of the wrist watches which were much worn several years ago, the face is always in plain sight and the time of day may be seen by the wearer at a glance.

Complexion Notes.

A beautiful skin depends largely upon proper digestion; hence the woman who is staiding to preserve or to improve her complexion will make a point of keeping her stomach, bowels and liver in fine working order.

Indoor gymnastics are beneficial in strengthening muscles and rendering the body supple; but they do not answer in place of outdoor exercise where the complexion is concerned.

Women with sensitive skins should never wash the face just before going out in the sun, as it renders the skin more liable to tan and sunburn.

If the skin chaps readily rub the face lightly with the least particle of cold cream before going out in the wind. To prevent a greasy appearance, powder slightly with talcum powder.

Sayings About Women.

The society of ladies is the school of politeness.—Montfort.

All I am, or can be, I owe to my angel-mother.—Abraham Lincoln.

Remember woman is most perfect when most womanly.—Gladstone.

Earth has nothing more tender than a pious woman's heart.—Luther.

Disguise our bondage as we will, 'tis woman, woman rules us still.—Moore.

No man can either live pious or die righteous without a wife.—Richter.

Even in the darkest hour of earthly ill, woman's fond affection glows.—Sand.

Heaven will be no heaven to me if I do not meet my wife there.—Andrew Johnson.

Electric Ability of Holland's Queen.

The Queen of Holland's chief hobby is amateur acting. She takes the liveliest interest in dramatic art, and never fails to attend the first nights at the theatres. A few years ago she had a theatre built for her use at the Loo, where plays are performed under her direction.

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