

## IN FARAWAY CHINA.

Fashions Change Even in the Distant Empire of the Celestial.

To be a slave of fashion does not necessarily imply that one must be of a civilized country. America may know more about canals, electricity and railroads, but China readily leads America in the demands of the fashions.

Woman, always quick to recognize the artistic, is picking up pretty Chinese gowns and using them for house gowns, and very delightful they are, with their long, graceful lines and soft folds. Not long ago an original hostess with an Oriental taste in project invaded a Broadway Oriental store in search of Chinese costumes for herself and also her assistants in receiving. The idea is growing, and now almost as many Chinese costumes are imported for the American woman as for the Chinese woman.

Canton is the Paris of the far East, the fashion center of that picturesque country of hills and tea. All the aristocratic Celestials, in whatever part of the world they may be, still watch that center with eager interest for the decree put forth every year by that capricious authority of Southern China.

As in all parts of the world, the matter of dress in China is no small one, or it at once determines the rank, the official standing, the financial worth and artistic taste of the wearer. To the uninitiated eye, all Chinese garments are practically the same. Nevertheless, there are constant changes, not only in the cut and fit, but also in the various modes of trimming, and, as in this country, it is well for the social leader in Canton to keep abreast of the times if she would hold undisputed sway.

By courtesy of Madame Wu, the dainty little wife of the popular former Minister Wu Ting-fang, the following information concerning the apparel of feminine China is herewith given. Nowhere in the world has the poetry of nature been combined in the national dress of a country as in the native costumes of the Chinese. Every well-dressed Chinese woman changes her gown four times a day.

When a Chinese belle or matron wishes to order a new gown she does not call a seamstress and hire to the dressmaker. She simply dips a small little brush in a paste ink and in hieroglyphics composes a unique message something like this: "One day of violet in light blue" or "one day of primrose in changeable lavender."

This may sound like a conundrum to the American, but the Chinese manufacturer who receives the order will know very well what is meant. He knows that for a day in violet he must set his loom to weave so many yards of silk in light blue, with the violet design in bud, which the fair customer wishes for a morning dress. The design signifies that the sun is not yet high. He knows that he must change his loom all over again for the midday dress, with the full-blown flower in design. The afternoon or twilight dress will have the half-closed flower and in the evening gown the flower is tightly closed. The same dye of blue is used for all four dresses, so the ivory-skinned, lily-footed wearer will appear all one day in the same shade of blue, yet her dress will be in perfect taste, for she watches the hour and wears the proper weave at the proper time, thereby defying criticism of even the most exacting follower of fashion.

The most serious breach of etiquette a Chinese lady can commit in dress is to wear the wrong flower at the wrong time of day or season—for instance, a full-blown flower at night or a spring primrose in winter. For the spring wear there is a choice of all the flowers in season—the primrose, the violet, and also the young bamboo is often chosen in its varying developments. The autumn is generally symbolized by leaves or chrysanthemums.

### What is a Baby?

A London paper offered a prize for the best definition of a baby. The last one of the following took the prize.

"The bachelor's horror, the mother's treasure, and the despotic tyrant of the most republican household."

"The morning caller, noonday crawler and midnight bawler."

"The only precious possession that never excites envy."

"The latest edition of humanity, of which every couple think they possess the finest copy."

"A native of all countries, who speaks the language of none."

"A few inches of coo and wiggle, writhe and scream, filled with suction and testing apparatus for milk, and automatic alarm to regulate supply."

"A thing we are expected to kiss and look as if we enjoyed it."

"A little stranger with a free pass to the heart's best affections."

### The Fortunate Woman of To-Day.

Fortunate is the woman of to-day! It is the fashion to be healthy and happy. There is no longer any charm in being sick and melancholy. In fact, ill-health and disease of all kinds are conditions from which there are so many broad avenues of escape that it seems almost reprehensible to allow ourselves to suffer from them.

### Had Fifteen Pairs of Twins.

There has just died at Denver the most notable mother of whom we have record in this or any other age. Mrs. Gillespie had thirty children, and they were all twins. This notable mother was born in England, but came to America forty years ago.

## HOUSEHOLD INDIVIDUALITY.

Delightful Effects Secured By Exercising Good Taste.

Here is a description of two rooms, which, if carried out on even so small a scale, will prove a strong vindication of the advantage of individuality.

The first room is too elegant for the average purse, but its rare and exquisite color combinations can but suggest ideas for the furnishing of a simple, inexpensive room. The side wall of this room—designed to be used as a reception-room—are paneled, the panels in very delicate shades of green and lavender alternately. These panels are outlined in white applique.

The ceiling and deep cornice are white. The woodwork also is white, with enamel finish. The floor, hand-somely inlaid in hardwood, has one large rug of delicate green velvet, a plain center, with borders in stripes. At the windows are beautiful inside-curtains of Battenberg lace, and over these are dark purple velvet curtains, falling straight to the floor on either side. The portieres also are of purple velvet. Both curtains and portieres have borders of dull copper silk braid in design.

The chandeliers and side-light fixtures are in brass. A table and a few brass chairs, upholstered in delicate silk of French design, compose the furnishings.

In contrast to this delicate room is the second one—a study in dark brown and green, with a touch of dull yellow. Of course, this color scheme ought to be used only in rooms with sunny exposure. The resourceful woman who designed the room found waiting for her hand some dark brown woodwork, enlivened with a sort of graining in imitation of oak. Money was lacking, so this determined little woman lay awake several nights concocting schemes for making that horrid paint conform to her pretty furnishings, and at the same time bend to her purpose to have a beautiful tasteful room.

The scheme evolved was most satisfactory to her and to her friends. First, she had a wide shelf (five inches), with a cove underneath, placed all around the wall at a point only a few inches above the half-way mark. The room was high and could bear this treatment. The shelf was painted a dark brown to match the wood-work.

The ceiling and side walls, down to the shelf, were papered in rich, dark green Ingrain, which was an exact imitation of black walnut.

The floor was painted dark brown, and the nine-by-twelve rug, made of strips of Axminster carpet sewed together, was of the same shade. For furniture she used a massive weathered oak table (round and perfectly plain) and a few chairs, upholstered in Spanish leather, with a suggestion of dull yellow in its shading.

### MISSER'S BLOUSE WAIST.

Full waists are much in vogue for young girls and are exceedingly charming both with plain skirts and with the suspender dresses that are



so much worn. This one is admirable for both purposes and is suited to many materials, but is shown in embroidered challie with collar and cuffs of lace. The quantity of material required for a girl of 14 years of age is 3-1/2 yards 21 inches wide, 3-3/4 yards 27 inches wide or 1-7/8 yards 44 inches wide, with 5-8 yard of all-over lace.

### Words of Wisdom.

Three things to admire: Intellect, dignity and gracefulness.

Three things to hate: Cruelty, arrogance and ingratitude.

Three things to delight in: Beauty, frankness and freedom.

Three things to like: Cordiality, good humor and cheerfulness.

Three things to avoid: Idleness, loquacity and flippant jesting.

Three things to cultivate: Good books, good friends and good manners.

Three things to contend for: Honor, country and friends.

Three things to govern: Temper, tongue and conduct.

### A Banana Relish.

Bananas are frequently served as an appetizer. Just before the meal slice the bananas in inch-thick slices (thinly cut bananas seem to lose their flavor), place in a dish, dust lightly with salt and pepper, add to each cup of fruit the juice of a lemon. Fill into little paper cases, out glass saucers or glasses and dust the top lightly with chopped piperelle. This herb the French chef holds in gentle regard, both for its aroma and its flavor, which resembles the cucumber.

## PROPER CARE OF THE EYE.

What to Do in Cases of Disease or Injury to the Organ.

If the eyelids have become reddened by the wind, bathe them in water in which a little salt has been dissolved.

A harmless and good wash for inflamed lids may be made by this formula. One cupful of boiled soft water, three drops of spirits of camphor, and one teaspoonful of powdered borax.

Congestion of the eyeball may be relieved by compresses wrung out of hot water, and repeated as frequently as necessary. Grated potato placed on the eye is also good.

The annoyance may also be relieved by frequent applications of hot water.

The best tone for the eyes is cold water.

Give the eyes a daily bath. Take a cup close to the eye and open and shut the eye in the water several times. If your eyes are tired and ache, rest them and sleep. When you have nothing to do close your eyes. Healthy eyes even should never be used to read fine print or by a dim light. Reading upon the cars is also a fruitful source of harm.

When reading or working, the light should be at one side, and never in front. Objects that get into the eye should be removed before they cause inflammation. Rubbing in the meantime only irritates and increases the sensitiveness. If the eye be shut for a few moments so as to let the tears accumulate and the upper lid be then lifted by taking hold of it at the center, the cinder or dust is often washed away at once.

Trifling objects can be removed by simply drawing the upper lid as far as possible over the lower one. When the lid flies back to its place, the friction will detach any light substance. If it becomes necessary, turn the upper lid over a pencil, and the intruder may then be wiped off with a handkerchief. If middle age be reached without especial difficulty of sight the person is comparatively safe. If any acid or inflaming substance has gotten into the eyes drop sweet oil into them, and wash out with warm milk and water. Do not wait until the doctor arrives, prompt treatment is necessary.

### HINTS FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

When milk is spilled on a woolen dress or coat at once apply absorbent cotton. All traces of the stain will be removed.

Daring colors like yellow and Prussian blue are now often used where suitable to enamel odd chairs for both porch and indoor use.

A few drops of alcohol rubbed on the inside of lamp chimneys will remove all trace of greasy smoke when water alone is of no avail.

Perch or other small fish are much better if fried quickly in deep, hot fat. Larger fish can be fried slowly in a skillet in hot salt pork fat.

For the meringue on pies use one tablespoonful of granulated sugar to the white of one egg. It is more satisfactory than powdered sugar.

When the asbestos in stoves and fireplaces becomes blackened it may be cleaned by sprinkling it with salt and allowing the gas to burn for awhile.

Hot water will take out every kind of fruit stain from linen, etc., if used soon. But the stained place must not be washed prior to the use of the hot water.

Do not waste banana skins; they are excellent for cleaning glass kid boots or brown boots and shoes. Rub first with the banana skin, then polish with a cloth.

When washing white or colored ribbons, add one teaspoonful of methylated spirits to a pint of cold water and rinse the ribbon through, and it will look quite new.

A few drops of good scent on bits of pumice stone, and the bits slipped in bureau drawers or among gowns in a wardrobe, will perfume clothing delightfully.

To keep soup let it remain covered with a coating of fat, as it excludes the air and helps to preserve the stock. If the soup has no fat, use clarified dripping for the purpose.

The odor that clings so persistently to a utensil in which fish or onions have been fried may be dispelled by placing in a hot oven for ten or fifteen minutes after washing and drying.

Rooms that have been newly painted should have a large zinc bath of cold water left in them one or two nights. A good wisp of hay should be put in the water. One or two cut onions left in the room are also said to remove the smell of the paint.

### Pebble Jewelry a Recent Fad.

A recent fad in jewelry is to use lustrous pebbles from the sea shore instead of precious stones, set in gold or silver. There is such variety in the color and luster of a beach pebble that many different effects are obtained when they are appropriately set.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Planked sirloin steak, baked like fish on a hardwood board, is a delightful change from broiled or smothered steak.

## BABY SUPERSTITIONS.

Queer Beliefs of Mothers in All Quarters of the World.

All the world over the mother has queer superstitions about her baby. Here are some of the queerest of them from the four corners of the earth.

In Roumania the infant's ankle is bound up with a red ribbon throughly after birth to ward off the evil spirits.

In Ireland, for the same reason, a strand of woman's hair is placed in the cradle.

In the West Indies the negroes follow the same custom as the women in Roumania, but instead of red, it is blue instead of red. If they have no ribbon they make a mark with washing blue upon the child.

In Russia there is a superstition that a baby and a kitten cannot thrive in the same house. One is sure to pine away and die, so pussy is always driven away as soon as a baby comes.

Most English women think it is extremely unlucky to carry a baby downstairs before it has journeyed upward. If the baby is born on an upper floor and there are no stairs to climb, the mother must hold her darling high up in the air, standing upon a chair or table and only then can it be taken downstairs in safety. This superstition is so common in France and Germany and even in some parts of this country.

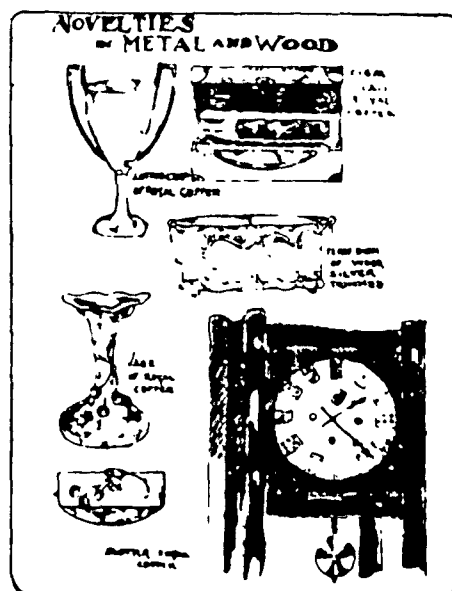
Another English superstition is that the baby who does not cry when it is christened will have bad luck all through life. If the infant persists in being good, the mother pinches it to make the cry come.

In Spain the women say that a baby under a year old should not be allowed to look in a mirror, otherwise it will grow up proud and haughty.

Most mothers are very much alarmed when their babies fall out of bed or off their laps but in India the women think it is an excellent omen. In Ireland there is a similar superstition which says that unless the baby falls out of bed four times before it is a year old it will be a hopeless idiot.

### Novelties in Metal and Wood.

Folks who are on the lookout for new things pertaining to the house-



hold will find much to interest them. The general demand for novelties stimulates the inventors, designers and manufacturers with results that in many instances are very gratifying to the seeker for the latest decorative and useful productions.

Royal copper and silver have the preference this season in metals, the former showing a peculiarly bright luster. The combination is delightfully represented in vases and loving cups, two examples of which are shown in the accompanying group. The mounting of silver presents an effective contrast to the reddish gleam of the copper and these ornaments, being new, are likely to receive much attention from the admirers of artistic metal work.

The cigar case shows how copper mounting is utilized to impart a decorative note to an unpretentious box and the blotter with its mounting of royal copper is the latest thing in desk accessories.

A fern dish or jardiniere of weathered oak is in keeping with the fancy that has developed of late for furniture of this dark wood, both in the mission style and more ornate designs. The mounting of silver relieves the excessive plainness of the fern holder and for a library or an apartment where dark oak furniture predominates this jardiniere would make a most harmonious addition.

There are cloaks galore, stain and ornate, for special apartments and general use, but the most distinctive of late designs is the one here shown in weathered oak. The dial is an uncommon one, the hours being indicated by playing cards, while poker chips constitute the central decoration. In a den or card room such a clock would fit in admirably, the simplicity of the casing and its dark coloring adding to its appropriateness. Clocks such as these are not to be had for a song, and therefore are not likely to become very common.

### Wearing Imitation Jewelry.

It is not unusual for the woman who likes to make a display of jewelry to have the real gems removed from their setting and fine imitations substituted. These are worn during the summer, and even her best friends—or enemies—cannot detect the difference, but recognize only the famous fashion of the setting.

### Hair Used as Thread.

A clever woman traveler mended a rent in her gown by using a hair from her head as thread for the needle she always carries in her purse.

## MAKING COZY CORNERS.

Sphere for the Taste and Ingenuity of Woman.

As the architect of home adornment, it is to the woman of resources to whom we must look for those little artistic touches which bespeak the homely atmosphere and give the unmistakable evidence of forethought and ingenuity. To her an empty corner or an ugly niche becomes a source of inspiration, and she sees in imagination as soon as she sees the corner its possibilities of being transformed into a place of beauty and comfort.

She realizes that the tones of all the furnishings must harmonize with the color scheme of the room, and yet be picturesquely Oriental, or English, or Dutch, and she lets embroidered and soft draperies and all sorts of simple or weird-looking stuffs run riot but still harmonizing.

She searches through the shops for "dear, new-old things" and she ransacks second-hand stores for equally dear new-old things. If she has a full purse. But if not, she heaves a sigh and betakes herself hopefully to the attic and to the attics of her relatives. She rummages and pulls about the various treasures which her trained eye tells her are really "antiques," and she looks over her "find" from every view.

Then she sends for the carpenter, and lays bare her secret plans. Go into this artistic woman's house afterward, and see what you will see ("cozy corners" that are cozy corners). Really comfortable snug nests, in which one may rest and dream dreams without being disturbed by useless fripperies and impossible titles, for the "woman who knows" has her cozy corner and all the rest of her house furnished principally for comfort and incidentally for ornament.

"Restfulness" is the keynote for the den furnisher to follow, and then will the cozy corner be a cozy corner indeed and an everlasting joy.

### Keep Young Though a Grandmother.

A woman need not be old as soon as she is a grandmother. Yet there is something in the term a certain aging, and too often this feeling of age begins to manifest itself in the appearance. A woman grows neglectful of her looks. She does not carry herself with the same smart air. She grows slouchy in her looks and careless in her manner.

"If I were giving the grandmother a few words of advice I would say:

"Be an April grandmother

"Keep your hands young, observant people soon notice them

"Have your teeth put in order and keep them so

"Don't let your waist spread

"Don't let your hair get out of style

"Don't think just because you are a grandmother that you can be careless in your eating and drinking—and grow fat.

"Diet and exercise.

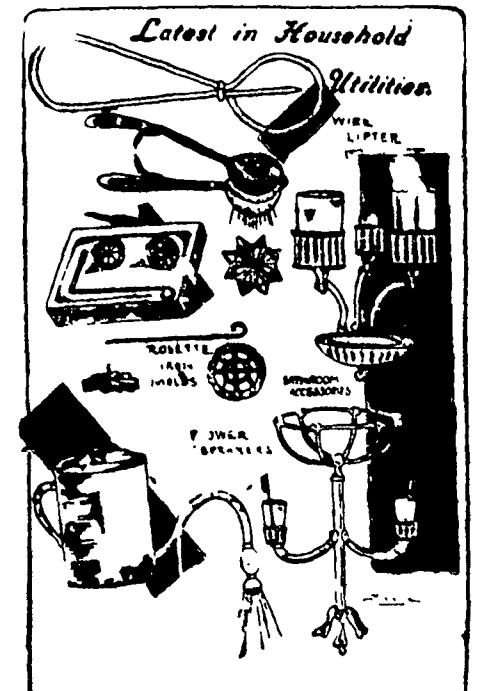
"Keep your voice young by modulating it a little.

"Don't croak. Don't complain. Be fresh.

"And never forget that an April grandmother is as young as she looks."

### For the Sick Baby.

A diet for babies when suffering with summer complaint is made as follows: Beat the white of one egg until it stands alone, grate over it a little nutmeg, then pour on one-half pint boiling water, beat again until well mixed, sweeten to suit the taste, and strain. Can be used in a nursing bottle for quite a small baby. This can be used with success when milk and all other foods fail, and is very nourishing.



### Revival of Rag Rugs.

A new field for women—or, rather, an old one revived—is due to some clever decorator's discovery that nothing goes so well with mission furniture as rag rugs. The new rag rug is a different thing from that of our grandmother's time, however. It is made of new materials, not "rags" at all. Several rugs recently put on the market are of one kind of fabric cut into strips and beautifully woven. Those rugs which have several kinds of patterns in stripes, and the effect of both designs is very good, inasmuch as the weave is different from that by the looms of other days. As these rugs are shown lying on the floor before a mission furniture desk or under a mission chair before the hearthstone the look of them is so quaint and pretty that the woman buying her summer cottage furnishings is usually captivated at once.

## THE CZARINA A SUFFRAGIST.

Empress of Russia Has Abiding Faith in Her Sex.

The Empress of Russia is one of the most advanced women of Europe, says the Chicago Chronicle, and does not attempt to conceal her opinions. She is a strong believer in female suffrage, woman's clubs, the higher education of women, and in her right to enter any and all of the professions. She is an enthusiastic advocate of the any movements started by women for the betterment of society. She has frankly stated that if she lived in a land where court regulations were less strict she would be an avowed female suffragist.

Of all the royal ladies of Europe the czarina stands out most strongly as the champion of her sex. She holds that almost all of the great reforms of the world have been brought about by women, and that they are just becoming conscious of their power and possibilities. Under her imperial patronage societies for the education and development of females are growing numerous in St. Petersburg and even spreading through the jealousy guarded realm of the czar.

"I have great and abiding faith in my own sex," she said recently. "Women are ever busy sowing the seed from which good springs up all over the world."

Since the czarina has become so deeply impressed with the importance of women's clubs and societies the czar himself has ordered that full reports of all such meetings shall be prepared for her perusal.

### Stylish Suit of Black Broadcloth.

All colors and designs are fashionable, and one need only choose what



is most becoming and be correctly gowned. Black, however, is always good, and the above cut pictures a charming model in broadcloth. Whether the bottoms of the coat fronts are cut square or rounded is merely a matter of taste, for both ideas are exploited, but fancy at present favors rounded corners. The vest differs somewhat from the regulation models, being short and attacked to a wide belt of the material. The narrow revers are heavily stitched, as are the cuffs and bottom of basque. The skirt is plain, with a pretty flare from knee depth.

### HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

To remove rust from knitting needles rub them up and down with a clader.

Mix blacking with cold tea rather than with water, for thus a better polish is obtained on the boots.

To keep a fruit or seed cake moist place it in an air-tight tin with a good sound apple, renewing the apple if it becomes in the least decayed.

Match marks on a polished or tarnished surface may be removed by being first rubbed with a cut lemon and then with a rag dipped in clean water.

It is not invariably throw away the oil from the can of sardines. It is a very good substitute for butter when codfish balls or made-over dishes of fish are on hand.

Lime sprinkled on the shelves will keep pickles and jams in the store-room from becoming moldy. The lime must be renewed occasionally, as it loses its power.

If anything hot has been accidentally placed upon polished wood it may be removed by first painting the spot carefully with spirits of nitre and then rubbed immediately with sweet oil.

When cleaning wall paper do so with a lump of dough made of flour mixed with a little soda and water. The soda will not injure the paper and the work will be done more rapidly with it.

Mildew stains may be removed from articles by soaking in a solution of four quarts of cold water and one tablespoonful of chloride of lime. Wash well in clear water afterward and hang in sun to dry.

Cheerful People Seldom Wicked. The happier we are the better we are. Cheerful people are seldom wicked; so, as the world jogs on it certainly must be growing better. There are so many things within our reach to add to our enjoyment, not one of them, however, containing more enjoyment to the square inch than the delightful trips across the country—even in our own vicinity, if circumstances will admit of no more distant points to which we may wander—which the bicycle makes possible.