

THE MEXICAN WOMEN

HAVE FEW OUTSIDE INTERESTS AND ARE NOT ATHLETIC.

Lead a Secluded Life—Delightfully Entertaining in the Home—Women's Clubs Unknown—Many Prudent in Money.

As the Moors practically controlled the commerce and education of Spain for over 100 years, the Spaniards acquired, to a great extent, the same ideas held by them of the education and treatment of women. And they in their turn, carried these ideas to Mexico. In fact, the Mexican women of the upper classes were much freer under the Aztecs than they were afterward under Spanish rule, says the Mexican Herald. And until quite lately, this condition of affairs has prevailed in Mexico since its freedom from the Spanish crown.

Not so many years ago when a Mexican woman went shopping she remained in her carriage in the street and sent her servant into the store to call one of the clerks to wait upon her. He came out and received her orders and brought the goods to her for examination. This peculiar method of shopping was due to the old Mexican idea that a lady of good family should be exclusive and should shield herself from the gaze of the public, and in fact from every one except her own immediate relatives and most intimate friends. This idea has been dying hard for over a century and it is still far from being completely buried in some parts of the republic.

The Mexican woman is naturally a home lover. She has no clubs to take her away from her home, and she has few outside interests. Even when she is philanthropically inclined, which she very often is, her ideas of life tend to make her place her charitable contributions in the hands of sister superiors of convents or directors of charitable institutions and works for use in the cause she has at heart.

The Mexican women of the middle and upper classes have never been athletic, at least since the Spanish conquest. This of course was due to the secluded life they led. But the women of the lower classes have ever been stout and muscular, for much work of a heavy kind has always been their lot. On account of her quieter disposition, it is not probable that for years at least, the Mexican woman will take the interest in athletics that is now being shown by her American sister. Another reason is that the sympathy of the Mexican people is all against her doing so.

In the Mexican schools the girl is taught many things in the way of needlework, painting, embroidery, drawing and designing, and these later serve to fill in her peaceful, uneventful life after leaving school. To this must be added music. For here, as in Spain and other Latin countries, most women of the middle and upper classes receive an excellent musical education.

In their homes, and in their own way, the Mexican women are delightful entertainers, and their knowledge of music adds not a little to their entertaining.

The piano always forms a very important factor in the entertainment at a Mexican house. No matter how small the gathering of friends, there is always some one who can play well, and his or her services are requested and always cheerfully given, for a Mexican not only likes to help entertain his friends and his friend's friends, but he looks upon it as his duty to do so. With the piano also goes singing of the popular songs of the day.

HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

Rub kerosene on the zinc under the stove once a day and it will always look bright.

Brass work can be kept beautifully bright by occasionally rubbing with salt and vinegar.

Tea should be kept in either a tin or glass vessel which has a lid, as it is necessary to keep it tightly covered.

Mirrors and glassware in furniture are best cleaned with a mixture of water, ammonia and whiting and rubbed dry with a clean cheesecloth.

A frying pan should never be scraped. Instead, fill it with cold water, to which a little soda has been added, and let it stand for several hours.

Women as Bank Directors.

The increase of women in the banking business has become so noticeable in Iowa that its significance will be discussed at the next meeting of the Iowa Bankers' Association. There were but two women five years ago in managerial positions in banks. Now there are fourteen cashiers. So far as known, the only woman intrusted with the responsible position in Iowa has failed. Moreover, no bank directed by a woman has failed. Two-thirds of the women cashiers of Iowa have started as bookkeepers, and, becoming acquainted with the business of their institutions, showed themselves capable of managing them.

To Drive Rats From the House.

There are other effective means beside the destruction of a rat to prevent his living in houses. The rat has a very sensitive foot, covered by a very delicate integument, which is burned by unslacked lime. If we sprinkle the holes and runways of the rat with unslacked lime he will desert the house. He is also a very thirsty animal, and if we cut off his sources of water he will desert the region.

SHIRRED PRINCESS DRESS.

To Be Made With Low or High Neck, Elbow or Long Sleeves.

The vogue of the princess dress is as much to be noted among the styles for little girls as among those of their elders, and exceedingly charming are some of the results. This one is eminently simple, girlish and attractive and includes all the essential characteristics, while it is so designed that there is nothing like severity found in its outlines. As illustrated it is made with the



open square neck and elbow sleeves that are so well liked for dancing school, parties and the like, but the addition of yoke and cuffs makes it suited to afternoon wear. In this instance the material is pale pink chiffon veiling trimmed with ecru lace, but the list of possible and satisfactory things is long.

THE CLEANING OF FURNITURE.

To Be Preserved in Good Condition Should Be Polished Weekly.

Much of the bamboo furniture is improved by washing with cold water and soap. The wicker furniture of the unstained variety should be regularly scrubbed with the brush. And if kept clean in this way it will maintain its state of beauty and usefulness much longer.

The mahogany table with the ordinary stains can be cleaned with tepid water and soap on a soft cloth. After washing, the table should be thoroughly dried and then rubbed with a clean flannel and a little linseed oil or crude petroleum. Only a few drops of the oil should be used at a time and they should be thoroughly rubbed in until the surface shines without a suspicion of greasiness.

If a piece of furniture has not been polished for a long time it will take several applications at intervals of a few days to make the wood glossy and smooth. But the labor is amply rewarded finally by the well cared for and highly polished finish it acquires.

Rosewood and black walnut should be treated in the same way as mahogany; that is, rubbed with linseed oil or crude petroleum. But the preliminary washing applies only to the mahogany.

Black oak, unless very frequently dusted and rubbed with oil, presents a dishearteningly grimy aspect.

The oil in this case, should be rubbed off, and not a particle allowed to remain as it will simply act as a dust collector. When a wood is very highly varnished it should be washed with tea water—that is to say, water in which tea has been steeped for half an hour. This water will not impair the gloss as does ordinary soap and water.

If the finished oil is not successful in creating a polish, a wine glass of olive oil, the same quantity of vinegar and tablespoonful of alcohol, shaken together and thoroughly mixed, make a good varnish. The dressing is applied with a soft cloth and the surface of the wood must be polished with a piece of flannel until thoroughly dry and glossy.

EMBROIDERY NOTES.

Artistic covers are now being used for the telephone book. They are made to suit the color of the room or hall in which they hang. Simple cretonne is one of the prettiest coverings.

A novel little jewel bag is made of blue china silk, lined with chambray. It is six inches long and four inches wide. The pockets are two inches long, with a bag of blue silk fastened with a little pearl button and a silk loop. It can be easily rolled up, and with baby ribbon and tucked in the purse.

What any woman would call "the sweetest little frock" is of creamy lace, all little frills and insertion. It is fashioned entirely of bands of insertion, widening as they reach the bottom of the skirt; each band edged by a little frill of lace and the whole very fluff and billowy. The girlish and bodice trimmings are of twisted mauve and pink ribbon.

Chit of Good Looks.

The chase for beauty in both sexes is growing apace. We map at every idea for physical culture, and the improvement of the race is the ambition of the age. There is no denying that we are growing more and more good-looking.—Lady's Pictorial.

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When a Camel Drinks.

The stomach of a camel is divided into no less than four compartments, and the walls of one of these are lined with large cells, every one of which can be opened and closed at will by means of powerful muscles.

Now, when a camel drinks it drinks a very great deal. Indeed, it goes drinking on for such a very long time that really you would think that it never meant to leave off.

But the fact is that it is not only satisfying its thirst, but is filling up its cistern as well. One after another the cells in its stomach are filled with water, and as soon as each is quite full it is tightly closed.

Then, you see, when the animal becomes thirsty a few hours later all that he has to do is to open one of the cells and allow the water to flow out. Next day it opens one or two more cells, and so it goes on day after day until the water supply is exhausted.

In this curious way a camel can live five or even six days without drinking at all, and so is able to travel quite easily through the desert, where the wells are often hundreds of miles apart.

Men Were Hated in Church.

Some one has revived the old question of women's hat in church. Pape

shows that in the seventeenth century both men and women wore their hats to worship. "To church," he writes, "and here a simple fellow open the pews of church music, and exclaiming against men wearing their hats on in the church." Later he notes that he saw a minister "preach with his hat on." "Which I never saw before." The hat was then an integral part of both male and female costume, and Pape catches "a strange cold in my head by flinging off my hat at dinner."

A Knotty Problem.

She was a fair passenger in search of information, and the captain was, naturally, only too willing to gratify her. He had explained that the action of the propeller forced the ship through the water, and added, as a further item of information:

"We made twenty knots an hour last night."

"Did you really?" said the sweet girl. "And what did you do with them all?"

"The captain went and his was killed."

"Throw them overboard," he said, shortly.

"Fancy," she said.—London Tit-Bits.

A winning way.—The short ion.

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