

## WOMANKIND IN ITALY

### CONTINUOUS ROUND OF HARD-SHIP AND SACRIFICE

**Gambling Their Chief Diversion—Everybody Marries—Divorce Unknown in Italy—Punishment of Guilty Wives.**

South Italy is still in the age of hand labor. The country women still spin and weave the bedding and towels and underwear of their families. The hams are all cured by the farmers' wives. Laundry work is done by hand—in the country at streams, in the city on the quaint terra cotta washbubs. There is no water in the houses, and housewives carry it on their heads from the street fountains. And to all South Italy "America" means "machinery."

It behooves Italian women to be circumspect in their conduct. There is no divorce in Italy. But there is a stiletto, for those whose conduct seems to merit it. A slash across the face with a razor is also an attention sometimes paid by a discarded suitor. Many a velvet eyed girl has a horrid scar from cheekbone to chin, given her by some man she has refused. Such customs discourage flirtation. Yet, curiously enough, a woman so disgraced often seems to feel a certain pride in such a scar, as an evidence of the violent emotion she has aroused.

Everything is on a family basis in South Italy. Everybody marries. Girls who work do so under the direction and in the company of their parents, a habit which they bring to this country with them. Italian girls in America do not go out to service or engage in any occupation which keeps them away from home at night, and they are the most easily "sweated" of all people, the natural victims of the sweating system, because of their preference for home work.

Wages are almost incredibly low in South Italy. Where a common laborer works all day for 20 cents, it is not strange that an old woman will pick olives for 2 cents a day.

The Neapolitan woman is uneducated, she is superstitious, she is very poor, and yet she has endearing qualities. She loves deeply and long. She is the most devoted wife and mother. She is frugal and temperate and she will work like a slave for those she loves. No other woman in the world in her position, with her few advantages, has such gentle, pretty manners. She loves music, poetry, art and color spontaneously, because she is an Italian.

Her superstition is at the bottom of her gambling. She does not play gambling games, like the men and boys, but she buys lottery tickets incessantly. In every block throughout the poorer quarters there is a lottery shop, where government agents sell tickets on commission. The drawings are made on Saturday afternoon, and every Friday night there are beds and furniture, and even clothes from the back, pawned for the wherewithal. The smallest amount that can be wagered is 2 1/2 cents. The numbers run from 1 to 80, and every one is attached, in popular superstition, to some act of life. Say to a Neapolitan woman of the people "What is a man that dies while he is talking?" "Thirty-three," she will answer, and so she gives the number instantly for innumerable other things. Thus the incidents of the week furnish the numbers which are played on Friday night, as in 1884, when the cholera broke out. Thousands played the cholera number, and as it happened to come out in the drawing the government was subjected to a heavy strain.

The government lottery, exciting the gambling propensities of the people and increasing their poverty, is a public question in Italy. So is divorce; for, curiously enough, many educated Italians regard this country, and not their own, as the model in divorce laws.

#### The Perfect Hostess.

She must make you feel individually that you are the favored guest. She must make you feel perfectly at home.

She must see everything, and yet possess the art to see nothing.

She must never look bored.

She must know how to get congenial people together.

She must know how to keep conversation always going.

She must never let any one be slighted or overlooked.

She must know when to ask the amateur musician to display his or her talents.

She must be perfectly unselfish about her own talents, says Woman's Life.

She must remember that nothing is so tiresome, so surely death to all enjoyment, as the feeling that one is being entertained.

#### Novel Use of Bread Crumb.

A French woman, Mlle. Suzanne Meyer, has, says the English Mechanic, cultivated the curious art of breadcrumb modeling for the last three years. She soaks the crumbs in various colored liquids, and then works with the paste from a palette, having invented a process of making the crumbs elastic and almost unbreakable. The French Government has just bought one of her works—an apple tree in bloom—for the Luxembourg Gallery.

## EXCITING WILD LIFE IN INDIA.

### Tale of a Cobra Shooting Expedition and Its Horror.

Tales of tiger shooting in India are common enough, but one does not hear much about king cobra hunting. A. Mervyn Smith tells how, accompanied by two natives, he went to a spot where a pair of king cobras were known to be. On arrival at the place, he was made to get under a basket, the meshes of which were too small for a king cobra to put its head through. While he was beneath this basket one of the snakes came out and was shot with arrows by natives. The other cobra then appeared and endeavored to overturn the coop. Describing the incident, the writer says: "The terror of that moment I cannot express. What if it should overturn the basket! The strength of thirteen feet of muscle must be enormous, and if used in the right direction would soon overcome my pull at the cord. What would then happen? Certain death for me, I felt sure. Again the whiz of an arrow and I saw a gaping wound along the neck of the fierce brute as it quitted its hold to look for this new foe. Fixing my knee on the cord, I now placed the muzzle of my gun just through one of the square openings in the basket, and, aiming at the hood, fired both barrels in rapid succession, and had the satisfaction of seeing the horrid brute fling up the leaves and dust in its death throes."

Mr. Smith says in his recently published book "Snakes and Hyenas are strange pets, but strangest of all is a full-grown tiger, and such a pet had Maj. Mansell-Pleydell. It used to be chained up just in front of the door of his bungalow. The major had a method of running up bills with local tradesmen, but there was great difficulty in getting payment, as none of the bill collectors was venturesome enough to cross the guardian at the door. It was a great joke of the major's when asked to pay his bill to reply: 'Have you sent your bill?' Our man has never presented it at my house." Brutus, as the tiger was named, seemed to know what was required of him. When chained before his master's door he would lie with his head between his forepaws and watch the gate. If a stranger entered he would lift his head and breathe heavily and this was enough to scare the most venturesome of bill collectors."

Arthur C. Woodhouse, a member of the Indian civil service, met his death while tiger hunting near Rajahmundry, southern India, recently. He shot at and badly wounded a fine tiger one night, which made off into the jungle. Next morning Mr. Woodhouse followed the trail. He came across the tiger, apparently in a dying condition, and fired at him with a gun loaded with buckshot, but the charge and shock, instead of killing the animal outright, revived him. Rushing at his foe, the beast bit him twice near the left arm. The wounded man was carried by natives fifty-six miles on a litter to the nearest doctor and died in a few hours after his arrival.

#### How to Get Fat.

Absolute freedom from care and anxiety. At least ten hours' sleep out of every twenty-four. In addition to this sleep during the day if possible. This sleep must always be natural. Nothing is so bad for the appearance and general health as sleep induced by anodynes or narcotics in any form. The diet should be liberal and should consist largely of food containing starch and sugar; potatoes, fresh, sweet butter, milk, cream, fruits cooked and served with sugar, all vegetables containing starch and sugar, such as corn, sweet potatoes, beans, peas, foods of the macaroni and spaghetti kinds, fish and oysters, ice creams, deserts without pastry; plenty of outdoor life, and a moderate amount of exercise. "Sleep in a well-ventilated room. I do not believe any one can gain flesh if there is any internal disease, certainly not if there is any tendency to dyspepsia or liver trouble. Where the patient is plump in one part of the body and falls in another a gymnastic course is advised. There is nothing better than bicycling, unless it may be a regular gymnastic course. In order to pursue the latter properly the patient is advised to go to a first-class gymnasium, submit to an examination and take the exercises prescribed by the attendant physician. These gymnastics, at moderate prices, may be found in a town of any size in the country. Where the development is meagre in the upper part of the body swimming is also an excellent exercise. Walking is always wholesome. The patient who wishes to gain flesh can never do so if she worries, is harassed, or permits her nerves to get the better of her."

#### Celery and Rheumatism.

Ho, all ye rheumatics! Celery never was finer than that which you find in the market just now. Chop up the stalks in pieces an inch and a half in length, boil them in water until soft, then drain the water. Or stew them in milk and butter, thicken with a little flour and eat warm with toast or potatoes. Rheumatism is impossible. It is said, if the vegetables be cooked and freely eaten. Besides, there is no greater delicacy than stewed celery. The value of the plant lies in the apical, or parsley-camphor, it contains. This dilates the blood vessels and has few equals as a diaphoretic and diuretic. Anything that produces a profuse perspiration is good for the rheumatic patient. All the world knows that celery is the best absorbent a drinking man can take, and its action on the kidneys and viscera is most beneficial.

## WHAT MAIDS OF HONOR DO.

### Their Important Position in the Queen's Household.

The most coveted position among gentlewomen in the kingdom is that of maid of honor to Queen Alexandra, says Pearson's Weekly. At the moment, four ladies hold this honorable position, wherever the queen goes—to state function, ball, theater, party, at home or abroad—at least one maid will be in constant attendance upon her. Yet, though so much sought after, the post is no sinecure. It requires a particularly talented lady to fulfill all the queen's requirements.

That they must be daughters of aristocrats is, of course, essential—usually they are daughters or granddaughters of peers—but, failing their right to a title, or precedence by birth, they are allowed the prefix of honorable immediately upon appointment to office.

A maid of honor's day commences immediately after the queen has breakfasted. Though her majesty's private secretary will see to the bulk of the correspondence the morning's post has brought, there will still remain many letters of a more or less confidential and private nature, which the queen will answer personally, through one of her ladies-in-waiting. That, alone, requires a maid of honor to be an accomplished linguist, for almost daily Queen Alexandra receives communications from her numerous relatives in different parts of Europe.

Immediately this is over, and if the weather be fine, the queen, who spends a good deal of her time in the open air, especially when staying at Sandringham and Windsor, will order her carriage for a lengthy drive. A maid of honor always accompanies her majesty, while on those rare occasions when the queen goes out on horseback one of her ladies, similarly mounted, rides with her.

To the management of horses will be added the care of the sick and the poor. For it is on such occasions that the queen pulls up before some of the cottages of her villagers and sends her maid of honor to inquire as to the health and prosperity of the inmates.

Back to luncheon, there is usually some function at which the queen, and, of course, one or more of her maids of honor must attend. If a king or queen, or anyone of princely rank, is visiting King Edward the maids of honor must be present with the queen, to greet them on arrival. During the season when drawing rooms are held the maids take part in the royal procession to the throne room, and are in attendance upon her majesty throughout the ceremony. At state concerts they sit immediately behind the queen and her daughters. At state balls they are always close at hand, to adjust the queen's cloak or wrap, or to take her fan or flowers from her.

There is no ceremony, indeed, not even of semi-official nature, such, for instance, as the presentation of medals by the king to soldiers returned from service abroad, or the distribution of badges to hospital nurses, at which the queen is present without her maids of honor. In all royal processions, moreover, these ladies occupy the carriage immediately preceding that in which the queen herself is sitting.

Unless requested to join the royal family at luncheon or dinner, maids of honor, after having placed a special bouquet upon the dining table at the queen's right hand, retire to the dining room kept for the other ladies and gentlemen of the household. But they are again in attendance upon her majesty immediately she enters the drawing room—to play the piano, to sing, to read, to play bridge, to do needlework, painting or any amusement or occupation which Queen Alexandra may decide upon.

Being a renowned musician herself, the queen spends a good deal of time at the piano, and the maids are more than usually chosen because of their accomplishments in this direction. All are excellent pianists and singers. They must be able to play in the duets which her majesty loves to take part in personally, with a brilliancy of style and absolute accuracy of detail that would astonish many a first-rate professional performer.

While Queen Alexandra is engaged in poker work, art needlework, or carving, in all of which she is particularly proficient, she often desires one of her maids to read to her. Here, again, proficiency in foreign tongues is essential for the queen may require the book to be translated into English, or to be read in the language in which it has been printed. At any rate, the elocution must be of the very best order.

Until the queen retires for the night, the maids are not free from their responsibilities. Although very comprehensive, the duties of a maid of honor are not arduous, and kindly being a most considerate and kindly mistress. And, of course, should one of the maids marry during her term of office, Queen Alexandra, as has been the custom of the court for centuries, presents her with £1,000—dowry. Her majesty's consent, however, must be obtained for the match. Most of the maids marry exceedingly well, their position in the court naturally bringing them in contact with highly eligible suitors.

All green vegetables keep their color if boiled rapidly and kept uncovered.

Do not iron black stockings, as the heat fades them.

## THE PESSIMIST'S GROWL.

### The Never Happy Individual Who Sees the Wrong Side of Everything.

"Went to the theatre last night," said the Pessimist sourly. "That's nice," replied the Amateur Philosopher. "Did you enjoy yourself?" "Didn't have time," snapped the Pessimist. "Too busy trying to sidestep theatre bores. I tell you, something ought to be done. Here I went to the theatre in the expectation of a pleasant evening of freedom from worries—and what did I get?"

"Why, I was driven crazy by those theatre pests."

"What are they? You talk like they were a guild or an organization."

"Well, they certainly are a part of every theatre I've ever been in, and I think they ought to be exterminated."

"Just as the curtain had gone up on the first act and we were all comfortably settled, here comes in the chronic late bore. Of course, the woman's to blame, but that isn't the point. It necessitates everybody standing up and making an impenetrable wall in front of the whole house unfortunate enough to be seated back of the latecoming bores that cut out a lovely bunch of plot just in a vital development of the piece. Oh, it was fine. Then when they had been seated I found that the woman in front of me had a head-dress on that would make a North American Indian war chief look like a rank imitation."

"But why didn't you ask the usher to have it removed?"

"Couldn't, it was her own hair with feather trimmings. You can't kick on that. It's exempt from the hat ordinance."

"But the thing that drives me crazy is the bore that's seen the play and insists on anticipating all of the situations for you and making your life a burden by telling you how he saw the original cast and how much better Tottie Montresor was in the role of the ingenue than the present incumbent. I had him with me at the theatre last night."

"In between times, while he was talking, the fellow back of me kept humming all the opera tunes and beating time on the back of my chair with his foot. Right in front of me, next to the lady with the head-dress, sat a chattering young creature with blondish hair, who carried on a perpetual string of conversation with a fellow with a head like the Neanderthal skull."

"Well, the first act was spoiled, but the mental agony I went through was only part of the torture, for I think the whole row got up and walked over my feet, and I had on new patent leathers—not to mention chilblains."

"Then during the second act an old gentleman kept explaining all the jokes to his wife, and a smart young fellow next to him with a shallow-pated girl kept knocking the performance so loud that I knew in a minute he was a dead-head. If you'll notice, it's always the people who get in through the courtesy of the house who spoil the performance for others in the audience by knocking the show at the top of their lungs."

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#### And Neither Knew.

Two young men who happened to call on a West Philadelphia girl on the same evening last week are now wondering which one the joke is on, though each feels that if he was meant it was no joke at all. Both of the young men are confessed admirers of the young woman, and both are regarded in the neighborhood as serious suitors, while each is in a state of agonizing doubt as to which one she favors. She herself, so far as known to outsiders, gives no sign, and it is considered to be an even race, with no odds in the betting. On the night in question each of the young men had started in to outstay the other, and after a long sitting, the girl, who is quite a musician, was asked to play on the piano. Declining at first, she was urged with equal warmth by both of her visitors, and then, saying she would play just one thing, she went to the piano and struck up, "Always in the Way." When she had finished both the young men arose and left together.—Philadelphia Record.

#### Don't Be a Bore.

It is an easier matter than most women realize to become a thoroughgoing bore. We have all met such a woman. She will recite for hours at a stretch the troubles—real and imaginary—which she experiences with her husband, children and servants. She will expound her own ailments, and bore you with a long story of her pains and aches. She also usually complains of being a bundle of nerves and yet takes a keen delight in telling you the most sensational and harrowing news which she has read, until she makes your flesh creep. And if you plead an engagement in order to escape her, she not only offers, but actually insists, in a manner not to be denied, on accompanying you until she has exhausted her fountain of talk. The grievances which such a woman has to tell you are inexhaustible. No matter how earnestly she may work for the good of others, she is always sure that no one appreciates her efforts. The truth of the matter is that she really does nothing at all without largely advertising the fact, and nobody can appreciate self-praise.

## AUTOMATIC SKIRT MARKER.

### Simple Contrivance for Accurately Determining the Length.

Dressmakers, as is well known, use few tools in their vocation. A pair of scissors, needle and cotton and sometimes a piece of chalk are the only articles used. The usual method in marking the length of the skirt is to have the wearer stand on the table and the marking done by hand. How much more accurately and easily it could be accomplished by the contrivance shown here! It is so simple that a glance at the illustration immediately indicates its purpose.



Mounted above a circular base is a platform, upon which the intended wearer of the skirt stands. Extending from the base is an arm, so shaped as to bring a marker directly in front of the bottom of the skirt. This marker moves freely and can be regulated to any position. After determining the length of the skirt the marker is properly adjusted and the arm carrying the marker revolves around the base. When making the circuit a chalk line is thus very plainly made on the skirt.

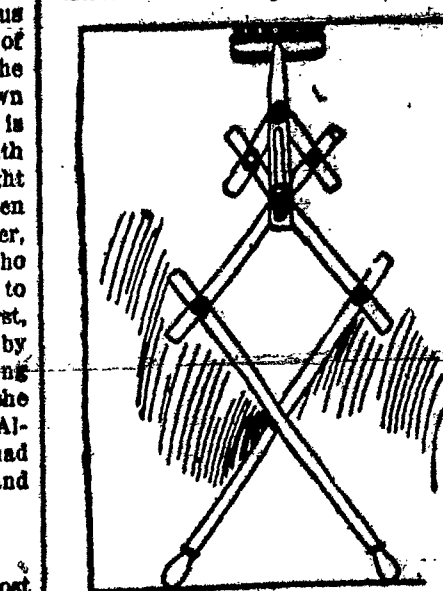
#### Furnishing a Den.

In fitting up a den, no hard and fast lines can be drawn as to the furniture it contains. Individual tastes and resources must decide such a matter. A den is not a library, of course, but if the tastes of the master of the house are literary, a small bookcase with his favorite books increases his comfort. Or possibly a magazine holder might be substituted for the bookcase, as it may be utilized for papers and books as well. The so-called "sleepy" chair, which comes in weathered oak, with a seat and back of Spanish leather, is a comfortable den chair, and more artistic than the ordinary Morris chair, perhaps. Then before the hearth—for what would a den be on a winter evening without a glowing grate fire and hospitable bearskin?—one of those quaint old mission swinging-sestles suspended by decorative ropes, and with generous Spanish leather cushions, are very inviting for long stories or meditations.

There are all kinds of quaint and charming little chairs with foot-rests to match, the leather bottoms artistically bound to the frames with leather thongs. Roman chairs with high arms and no backs might find a corner in which they could be useful and good in the general effect.

#### Extensible Washer.

Usually in washing windows a brush is attached to a long pole to enable the operator to reach the top of the window. In the case of plate glass windows in store fronts the extremely long pole prevents successful use during the day. This is so inconvenient that in many cities ordinances provide that store windows shall be washed only between certain hours in the morning to prevent interference with passers-by. The extensible washer shown here was designed to overcome these objections, yet enabling the upper parts of the windows to be washed thoroughly, the length of the handle being regulated to the height to be reached. To accomplish this the brush is attached to the end of a pair of lazy tongs. The latter are pivoted at certain points and end in two handles. By spreading the handles the brush is lowered, and by drawing them together the brush is raised. A particular advantage of this brush is unnecessary use of ladders.



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#### Celery for Health.

If celery is eaten freely an alkaline blood is the result, and where this exists there can be neither rheumatism, gout nor nervous prostration to any extent. It should be eaten preferably cooked, though it may be taken raw, if thoroughly masticated. Cut it into bits, and boil until soft in a little water, as possible.

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