

Woman's World

Designing Costumes is a Hobby of Popular Actress.



MISS GRACE LA RUE IN WRAP DESIGNED BY HERSELF.

Individuality in dress is manifesting itself more and more every day, and women are no longer satisfied with the clothes made for them by even the most celebrated dressmakers unless the modiste studies their own requirements.

Miss Grace La Rue, who is singing the principal role in "The Troubadour," designs all of her own costumes, and those of the girl with the road company who assumes the character she originated.

Miss La Rue has hit on a scheme in her dressmaking which is a valuable suggestion to the home seamstress. She has a life size wax figure of herself modeled, and on this model she is able to study the effects of her costumes better than by any arrangement of mirrors.

Fashion Ever Young.

"If fashion is capricious it is because she is always young," said a witty Frenchman. By being in mode one is always young. It is the touch of the toilet, the finishing touches, that bring a costume up to its best. Youth is not a question of years, but of appearance. The newest styles of dress are cast in lines and with a grace which knows no difference between youth and age.

To be young in fashion a dame, no matter her years, will look most carefully to four things—her corset, her shoes, her gloves and her hat.

Between these points of interest lie the jabot and the belt. A dainty jabot or a frill for the front of a coat or shirt waist will give it unexampled freshness and style. The counters are full of the very latest, and it is difficult to escape them, and as the fashion styles go to the out of the way counters the newest is there to be bought without much thinking.

A trim collar and modish jabot cover a multitude of oversights in the costume. The trim collar is sure to attract the eyes. The jabot of dainty muslin and lace and the crimped frill of lawn, with an Irish edging or an insertion of gypure, mark an elegant thought. The Dutch neck is reserved for the home toilets.

Quotes Nietzsche on Women.

Mrs. Havlock Ellis, who has made a careful study of Nietzsche, says the philosopher is strangely reticent about women, though he evidently has worked out a philosophy concerning them. She quotes him as saying, "Everything in woman is a riddle." She points out that he has said in one essay: "The true man wants two different things, man and diversion. He therefore wants a woman as the most dangerous plaything." The philosopher, elaborating on this point, says in every man there is always the element of the child and that woman be his plaything. The writer then quotes this excerpt from Nietzsche: "In a woman's love there are unfitness and blindness to all she does not love. And even in a woman's enlightened love there are still outbreaks and lightning, and still along with the light." Mrs. Ellis has picked up in another essay of the philosopher another excerpt which fits in here. In it the philosopher says: "Woman would like to believe love can do all. It is a superstition peculiar to herself. Alas, he who knows the heart finds out how poor, helpless, pretentious and liable to error even the best, deepest love is, how it rather destroys than saves."



Milady's Mirror

A pretty woman is as often a fool as an Adonis is a fool. Beauty and brains are separate things, says a writer in Truth, and they hardly ever go together in women, because brains have a way of molding the features into strength. This is all very well in a man in whom strength is considered beauty, but in a woman it jars with our preconceived notions. In Greece it seems, brains used to make a mold which was magnificently beautiful, it is not so in these days. We have a few curates with Greek profiles, a few beauties of the classic type, but one seldom hears of their possessing exceptional brains. If Darwin had been a woman letters would have appeared in the papers suggesting that women of science were dreadfully plain, no doubt because, being fully women, they took up science as a last resort. The idea that the size and formation of the brain forbade smooth, high brows and a small mouth would never have occurred to these critics.

Helen of Troy was stupid, one cannot read her history without adoring her for the mixture of beauty and silliness which produced Homer, and, after many centuries, fired Marlowe's pen in the divine fire. To be a lovely lady garmented in light from her own beauty, whose beauty made the bright world dim, is, as a rule, reserved for those who devote themselves to being beautiful.

Mme. Recamier has been cited as an exception, but both her beauty and her brains have been questioned. On the whole, it seems that she was a very pretty and graceful woman, with exceptional charm, who studied the art of listening. Brains have their own beauty, but it is not of the sort to appeal to the man who goes to see a procession of earnest and hard working women in the spirit of the man who goes to a cattle fair and appreciates them quite in the manner of the purchaser.

The gift of great beauty is rare and as has been said, it is its own excuse. Prettiness is very common, but it does not usually go with brains. In either sex. But charm is independent of brains, beauty, income or anything else, and when we come down to the matrimonial basis of calculation which prevails among those who write to the newspapers we shall find that charm wins the day.

Gaslight Injures Skin.

Since winter is usually the period for bad hygienic habits, such as staying in the house too much and eating too heavily for comfortable digestion, you must bear in mind that the season is one for especial precaution in the way of good hygienic sense.

Then there is the matter of the hot gaslighted room. How many girls realize that a long stay under brilliant gaslight is ruinous to the complexion, parching, yellowing and sometimes blotching?

The skin must get a good deal of its fresh oxygen through the lungs, and gaslight burns this up with a rapidity that is terrifying when you come to dabble with the scientific side of the subject.

Warmth is needed for a good skin, but so also is a moist atmosphere, therefore a long walk on a drizzly day is sometimes greatly beneficial, and indeed it is to the rains and fogs of their climate that Englishwomen owe their beautiful complexions.

Good For the Eyes.

It strengthens the eyes to bathe them either in very hot water or in very cold. Better yet is to take pieces of absorbent cotton, rounded and made into little pads to fit the eyes, dip them in ice water and place them on the lids, changing them as they become hot. After a few minutes of such treatment the eyes will feel comforted and relieved to a great degree. This is especially grateful to the eyes after riding in the wind or after having been subjected to the dust and stinders of a railway or the glare of bright reflections on the water when on a boat. Those who have a tendency to weak eyes should daily use an eye cup in which is placed a boracic acid solution. The saturated solution diluted one-half is generally the best and should be made fresh for each eye. The eye should be opened and shut in the solution half a dozen times or more, so that it will thoroughly bathe the eyeball as well as the lids.

Care of Eyebrows.

The skin beneath the eyebrows needs daily attention. One frequently sees a dry, scaly condition here, similar to dandruff of the scalp—and indeed it is the same thing—and here and there tiny bald patches. Crude petroleum rubbed well into the eyebrows at night will remove the scaldiness and promote the growth of hair. A tiny brow brush should be on every one's toilet table, and used daily it imparts luster to the brows and keeps them in good condition.

MAKE A NOTE OF THEM.

Christmas Suggestions That Come In Handy.



GIFT FOR THE GIRL WHO TRAVELS.

A pillow is one of the few embroidered articles of which there can not be too many in the Christmas box. What woman has ever been at a loss to dispose of an extra couch pillow? For if a pillow is really enjoyed it gets hard wear and needs frequent replenishing.

Flower designs are especially attractive, though conventional scrolls hold high favor.

As for the material to be worked, pongee, china silk, satin, velvet or velveteen, especially the latter treated with gold thread, would be extremely good looking, though there is nothing for ordinary use quite so acceptable as the neat lines and creases. These may be secured in many charming shades.

In view of the popularity of stencil work, the work will be most effective if done in flat embroidery heavily outlined. The well known Kensington stitch is the one to use. Suggesting the design to be one of roses or carnations, one shade of pink and one shade of green will effect a good result, and then the whole should be outlined in a darker shade of each color, or a very striking method would be to gold thread the entire design. Treating it in this manner, the effect is a compromise between a stenciled design and one for embroidery. The sewing case illustrated, although a sentimental looking heart shaped affair, will be found a great help in time of need, as it contains in its four hinged sections papers of needles in different sizes, a small pair of scissors, two bodkins and a buttonholed white linen needle holder. The material used is a dainty French cretonne, and the outside and trim for the inside. The heart shaped sections are cut from cardboard. Ribbon makes the casing for the sewing articles and the smart bow and hangers.

Negligee Hairdressing.

The girl who affects picturesque costumes will use this neglectful style of hairdressing which has the stamp of



TEES AND BEST COIFFURE.

Parisian approval. Judging from the finished effect, all one has to do is curl the hair, then take the hands and ruffle it up in a becoming fluffiness.

Opinions Divided on Hobble Skirt.

There is much dispute over the hobble skirt. Society women are divided as to whether it is graceful and commendable and whether it will be retained in style. Lady Duff Gordon insists it soon will be abolished, because it is hideous and makes woman the slave of a fad. "While the hobble skirt is not becoming to French, German and American women on account of their broad hips," she says, "it adds grace and charm to the slimmer figures of the Englishwomen. Short persons especially have welcomed the skirt, because it has the appearance of increasing their height. Women are naturally eager to look as becoming as possible, and any fashion which helps toward this may become popular among many of them. As an instance I may mention hair pads. Women who formerly were compelled to wear their hair flat now find their looks greatly improved by the stylish coiffures which hair pads make possible. Hair pads thus remain, like the veil, a permanent feature of dress among many women."

To Clean a White Fur Boa.

Put some ground rice into a large bowl, then put in your boa and gently rub all over with ground rice till clean. Then shake well to free the fur from powder.

IN DANCE ATTIRE.

Charming Holiday Party Frocks for the Small Girl.



OF LINGERIE AND LACE.

When the dancing class gives a costume for the small girl to wear it's not too dressy but is becoming and childish, and what is more important to mothers, it will be equally serviceable as a best costume all next summer. The model is long waisted, and the embroidered plaited ruffle is joined to the lace and lawn inserted bodice in a pretty pointed effect. There is no sash, but the rose pink choux on the shoulder matches the bow worn in the hair.

Homemade Turban.

The new box turbans are quite within the reach of the woman who does her own millinery work. The frame is so easily covered that the task requires only taste in selecting the trimmings. The turban frame may be covered with satin, lace or velvet and needs but little trimming. An egret or some big roses made of the same material as the covering will do.

A Cleaning Precaution.

If you do not want to make rings on material cleaned with gasoline naphtha or other cleansing fluids put blotting paper underneath to hold the fluid rather than let it soak through to the other side of the material. If this is not done the fluid that soaks into the material fails to be absorbed and spreads badly.

Reversed.

Miss Bixby: So you have given up advising women's rights? Miss Pessie: Yes, I now go in for women's lefts.

Smart Striped Effect.

If you have a velvet calling suit this winter you've got to put it out of it smartly. The suit pictured is a



IN BLACK AND WHITE STRIPED VELVET.

delightful model in black and white striped velvet, and you can see the unique handling of the stripes. Hand some black silk ornaments and an edge of fur on the coat heightens the novel effect.



Points for Mothers

Do not fail to keep strict watch on the baby's feet. If they are allowed to get cold the little one will be surely cross and run the risk of illness, as warm feet are a symptom of health.

During the winter months use woolen stockings, or if these shrink too much there is a mixture of silk and wool which wears much better, though more costly.

When floors are drafty it is advisable to glue shoes with a dannel sole pasted on the inside of shoe. Cork or rubber soles are used for children who are of walking age. This does away with the need of incessant putting on of rubbers on days that are damp. If the child seems fretful, before scolding or feeding feel the hands and feet. If they are cold and clammy the circulation is at fault. Put the hands first under hot water, then under cold and rub briskly. Make the little one rise upon his toes if old enough, if not, bathe with the hot and cold water and rub well.

A little hot water slipped slowly from the end of a spoon will often start the circulation and prevent baby from having a bad cold.

Rubbing feet with damp salt will not only tend to warm them, but will strengthen weak ankles. This treatment is often used to overcome bowed legs.

For a tiny baby it is well to warm the feet by means of a small hot water bottle incased in a dannel bag. This wards off many a nasty attack of colic.

Nursery Furnishings.

The furnishings consist of a low table and four kindergarten chairs placed where the light is best, two low, strong couches on which the children sleep at night, a large box for toys, the top of which makes a comfortable seat against the wall, and a cabinet in which are kept all kinds of kindergarten and school supplies—pencils, crayons, clay, pencils, paper, peg board, scissors, etc. On the wall hang a large blackboard, and in the two wide doorways hang a pair of drying racks and a rope swing. A punching bag, boxing gloves, Indian clubs, etc., are in evidence, and an electric railroad system finds all the room it wants to wander around the floor at the will of our small boy.

Here, then, they spend their days in healthy constructive work and play, and here they sleep at night with windows on two sides wide open and little white nightcaps on their heads to protect them from the drafts. The result has been that numerous other children of the neighborhood think our flat about the most interesting place they know of, and so our little ones always have company and are happy and contented at home, where we love to have them also; they do not annoy us, because they have so many interesting things to do that they do not find the time to bother with big folks.

Given freedom, room, things, and especially companions of their own age, all children cease to be "troubles" and become a blessing, as they should be.

To Give Baby.

The christening presents given to the infant of today differ much from those chosen for his grandfather or his father.

His grandfather probably had a Bible and prayer book and his father a silver mug, a knife and spoon in a case and possibly a silver egg cup or a napkin ring. But the new baby has a far wider range of offerings.

A sum of money may be invested in the infant's name or he has a banking account opened for him.

Another favorite gift is a piece of old silver expected to amass value as time goes on, and a third, if the recipient be a girl, is a chain and locket or pendant.

Other gifts are elaborate robes for the small wearer exquisitely embroidered, pearl-bordered covers and a monogram clip for the child's minor belongings, such as his veils or bibs representing the new initials of the little one intertwined in silver.

Plenty of Sleep for the Little Ones.

In these days of hygienic living it should not be necessary to say, "Put the children to bed early," but to those who are careless about a regular bedtime for their little ones I would like to say a word of warning. Many mothers would say, "My children always go to bed early," but these same mothers allow the little ones to "sit up" on the slightest pretext—the late arrival of a guest or a little dinner party—and then wonder why the children grow pale and nervous. Plenty of sleep is absolutely necessary. Says Woman's Life, if the boys and girls are to be free from nervous diseases in later life. Frequently the school work is blamed for a child's ill health when in reality the only trouble is want of regular sleep.

A Gift For a Baby.

A charming gift for a new baby is a set of washed gold safety pins. These are not the small sets connected by a chain used to fasten the little frocks, but are ordinary safety pins specially gold washed for the purpose.

For the Children

The Starling an Unwelcome English Invader.



It may interest young bird lovers to know that the United States department of agriculture has forbidden the importation of the English starling. The reason for this is that it promises to become as great a pest as the English sparrow. It destroys vast numbers of larvae, but attacks fruits, causing great loss in orchards. It also eats the young and eggs of other birds. It was brought to this country in 1890, when sixty birds were released in Central park, New York city. Since then it has increased prodigiously. At a distance the starling resembles a blackbird, but as it nears approach its plumage has a greenish gloss, showing bronze reflections, while on the back are arrowhead spangles of brown. Its bill is bright yellow. Owing

Trick For Christmas.

Place an empty high hat on the table. Show a large handkerchief to both sides to convince your audience that there has been no preparation for this trick. Then from the folds of this same handkerchief the performer produces a walnut, which he lets drop into the hat. The handkerchief is now crumpled up and displayed again, and, lo! another nut is produced. This he goes on until a dozen nuts are dropped into the hat. Next turn the hat upside down, and again a surprise awaits the audience, as the hat is quite empty.

The secret of the trick depends on a nut suspended by a thread the color of the handkerchief attached to the edge. In this condition the nut is held in one hand with that corner of the handkerchief, and both sides of the handkerchief are shown and shaken out, then the nut is dropped behind the handkerchief unseen. Dropping one corner and holding the handkerchief between the tips of one finger and thumb, the performer first lifts the nut out of one of the folds in which it gets concealed, then he drops it into the hat, afterward picking up the handkerchief by two corners in such a manner that when it is lifted above the hat the nut is invisibly dragged behind it and the production repeated as often as desired.

Magis Writing.

In this game a confederate is necessary. The player states to the company after a few remarks on ancient sign language that he is able to read signs made with a stick on the floor and agrees to leave the room while the company decides upon some word or sentence.

The game is played as follows. It is agreed by the player and his confederate that one tap on the floor shall represent A, two taps E, three taps I, four taps O and five taps R, and that the first letter of each remark the confederate makes shall be one of the consonants of the word or sentence decided upon by the company. The consonants must be taken in order. On the player's return, suggesting the word chosen to be "March," his confederate commences "Many people think this game a deception" (initial letter M). One tap on the floor (A). "Really it is very simple" (initial letter R). "Coming to the end soon" (initial letter C). "Hope it has been quite clear" (initial letter H).

A few more signs are made so as not to finish too abruptly and the player then states the word to be "March." If carefully conducted this game will interest an audience for a considerable time.

Where It Always Rains.

There is a group of islands to the south of New Zealand called the Sisters, or Seven Sisters, which are reputed to be subjected to a practically constant rainfall. The same may be said of the islands and mainland of Tierra del Fuego, saying for the difference that the rain often takes the form of sleet and snow. On a line running round the world from four degrees to eight degrees or nine degrees, there are patches over which rain seldom ceases to fall. This is called the "zone of constant precipitation," but at the same time there are several localities along it with very little rainfall.

Christmas Letter Enigma.

My first is in single, but not in double; My second is in wrangle, but not in trouble; My third is in knot, but not in tie; My fourth is in oyster, but not in fry; My fifth is the same as you have in my two; My sixth is in church, but not in pew; My seventh is in old, but not in new; My eighth you have had in my five and my two; My ninth is in hunter, but not in setter; My tenth is the same as my very first letter; My whole spells a name that children love dear; And they hear it much talked of at this time of year. Answer—Santa Claus.

Sing a Song of Stockings.

Sing a song of stockings, A bag full of toys— They are twenty goodness For little girls and boys.