

PATENTED PRETTINESS

Vanity furnishes the inspiration for many of the inventions shown at the patent office in Washington. One of the latest of this sort is a mask of very thin rubber designed to be worn on the face at night. It causes profuse perspiration which washes impurities out of the skin and makes the complexion clearer. Sun tan it quickly removes, so it is claimed. Another device, for producing dimples, is a woman's idea. It is a wire mask, likewise to be put on when going to bed. By an arrangement of screws, pencils of wood, very blunt, are made to press upon the cheeks and chin at the points where dimples are desired. Uncomfortable? Why, of course. But, as the French say, it is worth while to suffer for beauty's sake.

Inventions are on record at the Patent office for supplying pretty nearly every part of the female form divine. Though a woman may have no more figure than a broomstick, she can be transformed into a veritable Juno, so far as outward appearances go, by means of these devices. False busts, hips and calves are made of rubber, to be blown up like balloons, and in many other styles, while the young lady of build hopelessly skeletonesque may procure a complete stuffed jacket which fills out her shape at every point to the extent requisite for counterfeiting the desirable degrees of embonpoint.

If one is so unfortunate as to lack a nose he can obtain a false one of papier mache artfully enameled to imitate the skin. One kind of imitation proboscis is attached to a spectacle frame, so that the owner puts on his counterfeit nasal organ in adjusting his glasses. Yet another style is intended to be painted at intervals. When it gets shabby the wearer has merely to go to some capable artist and have it touched up with water colors. Several applications have been made for patents on processes for setting diamonds in the teeth—the front teeth of course—holes being drilled to receive the gems. Such ornaments must have rather a gasty effect, one would think.

Dental surgeons have patented processes for imitating gold fillings in false teeth. This is done by burnishing gold foil upon them in the manner commonly termed "fire gilding." Nobody would be likely to suspect that grinders showing plain signs of repair were artificial. A very curious invention is a device for keeping the mouth open while singing. Teachers of vocal music have had trouble as to this point with their pupils, but it may be obviated by employing the contrivance described, which has a spring and may be set so as to expand the jaws at any angle desired. Speaking of the mouth and teeth reminds one of a patent that was granted only two years ago on an ordinary corneob of the pattern familiar in nature, covered with corundum paste. It was to be used for polishing dental plates.

Masculine vanity is concerned in the genesis of about eighty patents for various kinds of mustache guards. Some of these contrivances take the form of metal attachments for the cup or glass. One such is a gold plate with a spring which may be fastened to any drinking vessel at a moment's notice. Another is especially designed for beer glasses. A tube connected with it goes down deep into the beer, so that the mustached drinker is able to avoid the foam. Similar devices are applied to spoons. Other guards are to be worn like spectacles somewhat, with wires to pass back of the ears of the wearer and hold them on. The shield for the mustache is of gold or silver, or of fine gold wire net. More simple is a pair of wire springs in the shape of a helix, one of which is made to encircle each wing of the hirsute ornament, keeping it away from the mouth.

In buying any cosmetic it is safest to select a patented article, because Uncle Sam will not grant such rights for any article that is injurious. That is one reason why most makers of such preparations keep their composition secret and content themselves with trademarks and labels. The protection accorded by law to a label or trademark may be perpetuated indefinitely by re-registration, whereas a patent can only be extended by act of congress. The rules of the patent office reject all that is "injurious to the well being or sound morals of society." A patented cosmetic is good to purchase, because it has been analyzed by skilled government chemists and has stood the requisite tests of novelty and usefulness. The same remarks apply to foods. A recent application for a patent on a liquid preparation for brightening the eyes, alleged to "intensify their color and brilliancy," was refused as a matter of course, because it contained a harmful drug. One face-wash submitted not long ago revealed on examination the presence of corrosive sublimate as an ingredient.

A novel contrivance is a hairpin that also serves as a holder for eyeglasses which are thus attached by a string to the coiffure. It is a curious fact, by the way, that hair-pins possess individuality. A woman can usually distinguish one of her own when she picks it up. There is something of character in the bending she gives it. Barbed hairpins, which cannot get loose and fall out, have been patented.

WORK FOR FAIR FINGERS.

One of the prettiest modern materials for decorating with needlework is the wire-twist etamine. It appears to be a very coarse meshed kind of scrim made in canvas weave of cotton thread, so tightly twisted as to be wiry. There are degrees of fineness in the materials, the coarse being very open, and therefore most effective for certain purposes.

For a table scarf a medium grade of etamine is used. The pattern which is stamped upon it in outline is pond lilies and their large plate-like leaves. The outline is followed in rope stitch with black silk. The flowers are filled with heavy white silk in the longest possible stitching, all running lengthwise of the petal. The leaves are filled with green of the shade shown by an accurate study of the natural lily pad. The stems have a line of greenish brown worked closely against the black stitching, which covers the marking of the pattern.

The black outlining in this, as in other designs, detracts a little from the reality of the natural forms imitated, but it gives a cameo-like effect, which is now considered desirable in embroidery. After working, the piece is stretched upon a lining of satin and edged with Cluny lace, which is headed by a band of satin ribbon.

A sofa pillow of the very coarse open-meshed etamine is filled with yellow silk in cross-stitch, the pattern of large poppies being first outlined and veined with dark red and left without filling. The design thus appears transparent upon a shiny, silken ground. The back of the sofa pillow is of plain satin the color of the needlework.

FADS OF THE FAIR.

Recently imported silks have raised designs in chrysanthemums, lillies and butterflies on a white ground.

Marie Stuart bonnets are again in fashion, and as they are extremely becoming to many faces will no doubt be popular.

Rich russet brown hopsacking, with brown velvet sleeve puffs and collarette is a favorite material for brides' traveling dresses.

The new bangle is made of a narrow band of gold, set across the top with five emeralds framed in diamonds. Other designs show the narrow band ornamented with a single fourleaf clover in emeralds, the stem twisted about the gold band.

The red vests in vogue are made of fine cloth in various shades, from scarlet geranium to a rich dahlia tint. The military effect, when the vest is buttoned up to the high collar in the throat, is perhaps the most ultra-fashionable, but again it is seen open at the neck to display a four-in-hand tie.

The bride of to-day carries either a fan of white ostrich feathers or a prayer book bound in suede, moire, ivory or vellum. The drooping bouquet is tied with long satin ribbons. One or two pearl or diamond ornaments are permissible, though very young brides look best with no such adornment.

Woolen dresses are much made in the new dahlia tint, in dark myrtle greens and in browns. Some faced plain cloths are most worn, but a coarse woolen canvas with an oatmeal surface seems likely to be almost equally favored. Elaborate trimmings are quite the order of the day, and simplicity is a thing of the past.

Fur gloves are to be very fashionable for the winter. They will be specially liked for carriage wear, as, in coming and going, the hands are more or less exposed in holding up the long and cumbersome train. Besides, many women who wear rings like to removed the gloves while shopping, and the fur gloves come on and off very easily.

SHIRT CUFFS.

A London laundryman says that the use of shirt cuffs for jotting down memoranda is more common than is, perhaps, commonly supposed. He related how one day a young fellow drove up in a cab and rushed into the office in great excitement, asking whether some shirts deposited in the name of L. had been washed. We found they had not, and as the owner turned them over in a heat of feverish excitement, he fairly yelled with joy, pointing to a little column of figures on the left cuff of one, which he explained were the numbers of eight \$10 bank notes which had been stolen, and had the shirts been washed all hopes of ever getting them back must have been abandoned. They were, however, successfully traced and recovered a few days later. The cuffs of stock exchange men are often covered with mysterious characters, presumably indications of the stock market, and the "tips" found on the wrist linen of racing men were actually taken advantage of by the ironing girls on one or two occasions with success. It is not yet recorded, however, that the manish young woman has taken to "cuff jotting," as she has to cuff and shirt wearing.

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THE BRAVE AND THE FAIR

He was a brave man. That was the rock-established fact concerning him.

No person could boast of having seen him cringe or grow a shade paler or hold his breath while the blood beat in his temples, and that was saying a great deal, for he was not unused to danger in its most savage form. He commanded instant respect and admiration.

And yet he was an arrant coward. He was not aware of it in the least, and if he had known it he would probably wrathfully, indignantly punished himself by going straight to her and forcing himself to say his mind, but the trouble was he was so blissfully, sweetly unconscious of it.

Even she did not know he was afraid of her. If she had been like most women she would have seen it, dimpled and laughed over it, laughed at him; but she was not like other women. That was why she frightened him so. He had seen women in his day, any number of them, and they had never alarmed him, in fact he had never thought much about them. They were dainty butterflies to be kept in the sunshine and out of the wind, and who rather depended upon him.

They were well enough, but they tired him and he wondered how the older men could endure the same routine all their lives. But she had a poise of her own and seemed self-sufficient.

He had never analyzed it out and in a puzzled way concluded it must be the way she dressed her hair or wore her gowns or the scent of violets which waivered about her. There was always a tormenting idea in his mind that his presence alone did not call up the tempting half smile on her lips, and that her clear eyes would still have the look of quiet happiness in their depths if he was not there. She looked just that way when she talked to the joting old pensioner of eighty or the ragged newsboy on the corner. It showed a very nice spirit in her, and yet he was selfish enough to wish that sometimes when he went away the gentle light in her face would fade. It never had yet, because he always looked back to see.

He was quite well aware that he was in love with her, but still he had never told her, simply because he had never wanted to enough to warrant thinking about it. It contented him perfectly to sit opposite her in the green and gold room and watch the play of her face and the flashing motion of her white fingers in the embroidery she loved to do. She looked so thoroughly sweet and comfortable and homelike, and when she laughed, as she did once in a while, it tinged the whole room with rose color, and he would sit smiling silently while the coal snapped in the grate.

There came a time when the thought came to his mind that this dreamy joy could not last eternally, and it quite roused him to consider what he should do if some other man were forever to debar him from his seat in the green and gold room where he watched her—debar him by means of an insignificant bit of gold and a half dozen sanctified words.

So he resolved to ask her to marry him. The resolve did not throw him into a nervous fever nor break his calm security. It was a very simple matter when one looked at it in the right light—a few words rightly said, a look from the eyes and the thing was done. It did not occur to him that he should be afraid. That was because he did not know that he was a coward.

So he dropped into his old place that night and watched her a little while. He half opened his lips to begin, when she glanced at him brightly as she made some passing remark. He did not speak for he was bewildered at the tremulous chill which suddenly made itself manifest all over him in a most extraordinary way.

He had never before known her eyes to drive all thoughts from his mind and tangle his tongue inextricably.

He could not comprehend why he continued to make remarks on the weather and invent sallies about the last opera. He was certain that he could say what he wanted to if she would only keep her eyes on her work, but he was not sure that she would not look at him again, and he did not want to experience another cold chill, because it took so long to get over the shock of the first.

In his surprise and dismay at himself he kept on making bon-mots concerning the weather.

Then he heard the clock strike twelve and meekly went home.

He slunk by the policeman and dodged pedestrians because at last he knew he was a coward.

He did not make a light in his room because he knew that if he saw the coward's face in the mirror he could not refrain from injuring it with his strong right arm, and he was naturally a peaceable man opposed to scrimagores.

In the morning he took a pen and paper and wrote out what he had tried to say to her the night before. When the lid of the mail-box clicked he started. He thought some sneering, laughing voice had said, "Coward!"

But he had the reputation of being a brave man. His life-long friends always spoke of him as such.

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