

OUR CLOTHES.

The great question of the day is what to wear and how to get what you want to wear. It is a question worthy of all the time and thought bestowed upon it. Clothes make the man and the woman, too. If one doesn't have the kind of clothes desired he may as well give up living at once. It is a lamentable fact that some accessories to living, such as labor and study, are often allowed to interfere with the primary object. Not that these are things to be disdained, for they are often great helps, and even indispensable to getting suitable wearing apparel. But it is pitiful to see handsome men and women who ought to have all their attention free to bestow upon garments, compelled to turn their intellects to books and manual labor. Girls who would be things of beauty and joys for several years to come are obliged to engage in sordid study. Youths who long to give their whole souls to spring suits and artistic neckties are forced to quench all their aspirations and devote some of their time to business and the false realities of living. Why is society thus organized? Why are people compelled to labor for the supreme objects of existence. Alas, such is life.

THE GRADUATE.

Marie was going to graduate in June. She was anxious to show her independence, so she decided to teach. She thought she would rather teach in college than any other kind of a school, then she wouldn't have the trouble of disciplining the unruly youths and maidens. Parenthetically, it may be remarked that she forgot about the jolly times she used to have on the back row during the mathematics class. But there didn't seem to be the amount of competition between different institutions to secure fresh and blooming girl graduates for instructors that she had anticipated. When her letters were answered at all, there were only brief lines saying that their lists of teachers were full.

Next she tried high schools, but it took so much letter writing, besides they always required the teacher to pass an examination, then high schools always had the reputation of being very hard to manage.

Maybe it would be better to try for a position in the grades, only it seemed so common. Anybody could teach in the grades, and it hardly seemed worth while for a college graduate to waste her education on children. But after while it became evident that even grades were not so in need of teachers. The boards always wanted recommendations, just as if her diploma were not sufficient guarantee of character and scholarship, and her instructors were not so anxious to give the recommendations as she had expected. They seemed to remember the back seats in the mathematics class better than the good recitation that she sometimes made.

At least she was confronted by the awful fact that only country schools were left. At first her pride rebelled utterly, then she reflected that she would be showing unexampled fortitude and self-sacrifice by devoting a year to the children of benighted rural districts. At once she started out on a quest for a suitably needy, yet comfortably tractable school on which she might exercise all her philanthropic intentions without too much exertion. Alas, even this door was closed. The country directors were as particular as those of the city in regard to recommendations and high marks on the certificates of examination. Well, perhaps after all, she had made a mistake, and it would have been too much for her constitution, so she staid at home and read and dreamed in the hammock all summer.

A UNIVERSITY GIRL.

It's just horrid to have it rain so much. I don't get more than one or two games of tennis a week, just because the court is so muddy. Last year there was scarcely a day from spring till fall when we couldn't play.

It just seems as if it rained every afternoon when I want to sit on the campus benches. The doctor said I needed air and sunshine, so I sit out of doors a good deal. I just love to watch the girls pass. Some of them always rush as if their life depended on it. I suppose they don't realize how they look. And the boys are too nice for anything in their new spring suits. But when it rains they put on their old clothes and carry umbrellas. They never stop on the walk to talk then. I have been deprived of some of the most inspiring conversations by this rainy spring. Then I always feel so untidy. I can't wear my light clothes, and my hair won't stay in curl as long as I am fixing it. Of course I can't have near so much influence with my friends when I don't look nice. I consider myself one of the new women, and I believe it is every woman's duty to make herself as attractive as possible.

But I just can't when it's so rainy.

Wasn't it awful to think it even rained on Easter? I had the sweetest new bonnet, and a new dress. I hadn't thought about anything else but them for days, and when I found it raining that morning, I just had a good cry. It seemed as if my heart would break. When I was going to church I met Maude. She commenced to tell how glad we ought to be because it had rained. You see she hadn't any Easter bonnet nor spring cape, and her blue Mackintosh happened to be quite suitable. It just poured all morning. The men were all grinning from ear to ear. They talked crops and brightening prospects, until it took all the Sabbath Easter peace out of my heart. I suppose I oughtn't to blame them so much, though. They're not so delicately organized as we are, and can't appreciate what trouble a rain makes.

Then, of course, rains do a great deal of good, only I wish it would always come in the night, when we don't want to go out. You know there wouldn't be any violets if it didn't rain, and I just love to wear them.

MAY HOPPER.

BEFORE:

I tied her shoe—
She asked me to—
I didn't hurry much; would you?
But well she knew,
Ere I got through
I'd see the size was No. 2.

AFTER:

I tied her shoe—
She told me to—
I had no choice, and this she knew;
For she's the shrew
I'm married to.
And what she says, you bet I do.

—Ex.

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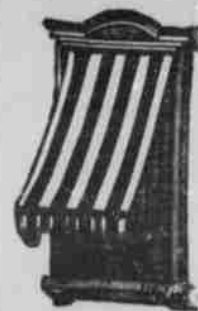
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