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**FASHION**

NEW YORK, March 6.—The latest shocking extravagance of a certain prominent society woman is being discussed everywhere.

One hears whispers of it at private dinners and open comment in hotel corridors.

Even the usually unmoved Modishes are aghast.

It seems that this attractive woman wore a wonderful evening gown of hand-made lace of the most exquisite fineness at a famous ball at Sherry's not long ago, and, by her obviously intentional carelessness, utterly ruined it in less than an hour.

The lace alone—the hand-made flounce—the damage to which is irreparable, cost two thousand dollars, and took many poor women and girls—working into the night and at the lowest possible wages—six months to complete.

This is the chief burden of the chatter one hears on the subject.

The entire costume, including a superb boa, cost about five thousand dollars.

The other women present agree that its destruction was simply wicked.

I believe the wearer of the gown confided to a friend that she did not like it after all her trouble—that it was not becoming—and therefore she did not care what became of it.

The train was extremely long, and, as she did not gather it up at all during the dances, the inevitable happened.

What with all the hand-made lace and embroidery on the new spring outfits, it will be a marvel if even the most economical and modest of the Modishes do not get a reputation for extravagance.

The batistes, dimities and foulards shown in advance of the season are scarcely recognized under these modest names, so literally submerged is the material in its all-important trimmings.

For instance, a dimity of a delicate cream color has so much lace of two varieties applied upon it—with the dimity cut out beneath—that one only sees an inch or two of it at intervals; and yet it is described as a "simple little dimity" by the saleswoman, and is "very reasonable" at two hundred dollars.

I still see such amusing examples of handsome clothes indiscriminately worn.

At the Waldorf-Astoria—that Mecca for the rich unknown who want to know but cannot wait—a woman guest sat all Sunday forenoon entertaining men callers in an unmistakably evening waist.

It was one of the thin nets with a lace edge, with the flesh showing through from neck to shoulders.

There was a suggestion of a sleeve of the same diaphanous material, but it terminated in flounces and ruchings a bit above the elbow, leaving the arm entirely bare.

Pale pink ribbons were caught across the low bust in large rosettes at either side, and were also festooned (no other word exactly suits) over the arms. A frill of lace fell from the ribbon across the bust to the waist line.

A wide pearl collar adorned with dia-

mond bars encircled her throat, and large diamonds blazed in her ears.

It sounds ridiculous, and is; yet I saw her at half-past ten—as did hundreds of others—and she appeared blissfully ignorant of the mild sensation she was causing.

The very latest thing in the line of hair ornaments for evening toilets are the old-fashioned clusters of pearl grapes and cherries and feather flowers, outlined—petal by petal—in tiny pearls.

They are all very quaint and effective.

A few aigrettes are still shown, but they are greatly modified from the high affairs of a season or two ago.

The simple wreath or demi-wreath of laurel or some other green leaf, which is favored by some of the younger set, is usually most becoming.

Many of the young society girls of New York are really marvels of taste in dress.

This taste is usually an inheritance—the result of good breeding; and to it, and not—as many think—to the size of the pocketbook, must be attributed the effect.

Appropriate gowns, let it be remembered, cost no more than inappropriate ones, and they yield much more satisfactory dividends.—Lady Modish in Town Topics.

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N. M. BUTLER

Nicholas Murray Butler, the new president of Columbia university, New York, is a very close friend of President Roosevelt. When the latter was governor of New York he always turned a deferential ear to Professor Butler's sound political advice. President Roosevelt has not forgotten this and it is whispered that a cabinet portfolio has already been offered to President Butler.

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HOW HE HIT IT.

Occasionally a man and woman will arrive at the same conclusion, but by widely different processes of reasoning. This was illustrated last week in the experience of a young suburban matron who had arranged to give some girls a luncheon at a downtown restaurant. They were former school chums, and she was very anxious that her husband should meet them. As he was leaving to come down town in the morning she asked him to step in and order the luncheon. "But, for goodness sake, Will," she said, "don't order some of those vast steaks with fried potatoes and things, that you always call for when I am with you." The husband promised to be careful and departed. His wife almost immediately regretted leaving such an important matter in his charge, but she simply could not get down town that morning, and so hoped for the best.

When she and her guests arrived at the restaurant they found her husband

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waiting, and after introductions the hostess ordered luncheon to be served. She was dreadfully anxious for fear Will had ordered some of the massive dishes to which she had referred in the morning. Great was her joy to find as the courses came in that everything was of the dainties and most delicious character. It could not possibly be, she thought, that her husband had displayed such wonderful taste, but a chance remark he dropped showed that in very truth the menu was of his selection. The little entertainment was a decided success and the wife was very proud of her husband's judgment—until he arrived home that evening. At dinner she complimented him on having ordered so many charming dishes. The man of exquisite taste growled: "That what you call charming? Well I'll tell you how I made my selections. I just looked over the bill and ordered everything that I hate most. Charming nothing!"—The Chicago Chronicle.

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NOT USUALLY THAT WAY.  
A very small girl, out on the East Side, was given her first plate of raw oysters at supper the other night. She swallowed one and then pushed the plate away from her with an expression of disgust.  
"What's the matter, Katy?" asked her mother. "Don't you like your oysters?"  
"No, me don't," answered Katy with a grimace. "Him was too fresh."—Memphis Scimitar.

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