

WOOLING IN FOREIGN LANDS

BY BEAU BRUMMEL



ARABIAN BRIDE'S BETHROTHAL COSTUME

THE American girl is so accustomed to a short, romantic courtship which reaches its climax in a large wedding with a double ring service, she imagines girls are wooed and won in the same way everywhere. Though men are courted and girls are won the world over, there are many strange and unusual customs associated with the winning.

Even in Europe marriages are made much more conventionally than in this country, and it is only in most recent times that young men have been allowed to court girls without the consent and aid of their parents. But in France to-day among the haut monde the parents of the young man must be consulted, and unless he is 25 years old he cannot marry the girl without their consent. A far wiser way for him to do is to talk it over with the parents. If the girl is attractive and the family is congenial the parents of the young man make overtures to the girl's parents. They are soon on a friendly footing and the question of marriage is readily settled. The settlement as to what the girl's dot shall be is an important point at issue.

The Chinese, along with the Turks, believe that a girl is far better off dead than unmarried. Though they are exceedingly anxious to have their daughters married they believe it is beneath their dignity to carry on these negotiations themselves, but leave this work to a professional matchmaker. The go-between visits the different homes alone, where she takes note of the age, education, social position and wealth of the different girls. She then gives a long and accurate account of the girl's family. One is selected from this number, and if both parties are satisfied the affair is handed over to the necromancer. If the stars say the young people are selected wisely the betrothal is announced. But the matchmaker has still a part to play.

Shortly before the marriage she brings the young girl the gifts the groom would send her. These usually include a log of pork, a bag of money, two bottles of wine, and two candles. But the girl is expected to return a part of these offerings. The Chinese parents do not believe it is necessary for young persons to love each other so long as the augur is satisfied. The young man rarely sees the girl until after they are married. When the bride arrives at the home of the bridegroom he is there to meet her, but when she steps out she is so veiled that her features are hidden. He leads her into the room where the ceremony will take place. Then he seats himself on a high chair to show his superiority and she prostrates herself before him until he lifts the veil and sees for the first time his future wife's face.

The Russians are another people who believe that marriage is the only natural and rational destiny for a woman. Confident that Cupid is a foolish and erratic boy whose judgment is not always the wisest, they make use of a matchmaker, called a svacha. She is a most important personage, and when her judgment, which is excellent, falls her she can call the stars, diamonds, hearts and clubs to her aid.

But the marriage ceremonies are even more complicated. On the day before the wedding the bride is conducted to her bath. There her friends spend long hours combing her hair and while away the time singing and talking of what her daily life will be after she is married. The ceremony is performed with the rites of the eastern church and takes place eight days before the marriage. The service is divided into three parts. The first is where the gold rings are exchanged. Then the bride and bridegroom are crowned with crowns of silver filigree, and lastly comes the dissolution of the crowns.

Though matchmakers are not employed in Japan love matches are exceedingly rare, and it is not un-

usual for a Japanese bride to commit suicide because she is not permitted to have the young man she would like to marry. The parents settle this affair often without consulting the young man and the girl. The man usually is given more leeway, and if he does not admire the girl the parents usually hunt another girl for him. The girl once selected, it is his duty to send her as many and as costly gifts as his fortune will allow.

The Swiss bride, especially in the upper classes, never accepts anything beyond jewelry. Her parents are expected to buy her trousseau, furniture for the house, and her spinning wheel. The day of the wedding these things are exhibited, but at the bridegroom's house.

Though in Switzerland no matchmaking is done, a young man must often prove to the girl he is worthy of asking for her hand. The girls always have the privilege of saying "Yes" or "No," though in some places the choice of a bridegroom is restricted to their own locality. In some districts a man must lead the goats up and down the mountain to show the girl he can work for her. In other towns where the haying is done it is his part to stack up all the hay and pile it into the barn. Though she helps him in his long hours of toil, he is expected to do most of the work. Still he toils on bravely, feeling that he is being rewarded sufficiently by a pleasant word, a friendly smile, and that if the work is well done he has a chance to win her as his wife.

Until recently in Egypt girls and boys were married when they were young. It was common for a girl to be married by the time she was 14 and a boy when 16. But they now wait a few years longer. The parents always select the man they wish for the son-in-law. The girl is satisfied to know that she is going to have new dresses and a great deal of new pretty jewelry. The bride and bridegroom rarely see each other before the day of the wedding. An important part of the ceremony is to give a bride food and a large urn, which symbolize that she will have food and water.

There are no people so particular about selecting husbands and wives for their children as the Moors. Their sons and daughters have no right to say who they will and will not marry. For after the parents have chosen, a word of complaint might result in death. A son dare never take a wife unless his mother approves, and she is usually chosen from the young women of their own clan. But when they cannot find a girl in the village who pleases them they seek one among other clans. But the young man is supposed to be too timid to court alone the girl whom his mother chooses, and so he usually takes several friends with him. It is their duty to sing the girl's praises in the hope of giving him courage to carry on the courtship.

But the formal engagement must take place in the presence of the head man. It is before him that the young man hands over the sum he has agreed to give the girl's father. This varies according to what he can afford, the beauty of the bride, and their social position. The bride usually buys the trousseau with the money the young man gives her father.

Moorish girls are exceedingly fond of pretty clothes and plenty of handsome jewelry, so their trousseaux are often wonderfully elaborate. On her wedding day a professional woman from the town is employed to dress the bride. She paints her face, combs out her hair, and arranges the jewels. Not much before sunset does the bridegroom send the box in which the bride is to be con-



EGYPTIAN WATER CARRIER WAITING FOR HER LOVER



GEORGIAN BRIDE WHO COST A FORTUNE

ducted on a mule to his house. Before she goes to his house she drives all about town. In some parts when the bride enters her new home the bridegroom walks backwards holding a dagger in his hand and she follows him, touching the point of the blade with the tip of her finger.

Where a family can afford it a girl usually is accompanied by an old nurse, who gives her good words of counsel as the lazy mule trudges along leisurely. Before she leaves the girl, whom she has cared for since the bride was a child, she whispers: "Take courage; you need not fear. He cannot help but love you; you are sweet, good, and kind."

Among primitive peoples marriage usually is more insistent and girls are courted in even a less romantic manner. Among the Australians every girl must marry, whether she will or not. It is considered wonderfully strange if a girl is 12 years old and is still unmarried. This is not because the girls or parents are romantic, but the parents feel that a girl is only worth the toll she gives.

"The man," says the Rev. H. C. Meyer, "regards them more as slaves than in any other light. They are a necessary commodity, valuable only as long as useful, to be thrown aside after they serve their purpose."

Worse still, their masters can throw them out and divorce them at will. The Kafirs buy their wives with cows and do not pay more than they can help. A woman no sooner enters her new home than she is given some task to perform so her lord can see if he has made a good bargain. He values her less than his cows. This is seen by the fact that he permits her to do all the work except tend to his cattle and enter the kraal where they are kept.

BLACK FOX FARMS.

Consul John H. Sherley writes from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island: "There are three black fox farms near Atherton where these animals are raised for their skins. These farms contain 20, 25 and 30 foxes, respectively. The skins are sold in London at prices ranging from \$500 to \$1,800 each, according to quality. I am informed that the fur is used for ornamenting the cloaks of royalty, as it is the only fur to which gold will cling. The farm containing 30 foxes is on Cherry's Island. The farm containing 20 foxes is in a rough, broken woods country, where the animals are confined by heavy woven-wire netting. The wire is set in the ground two and three feet, in order to keep the foxes from burrowing under, and is about eight feet high above ground, with a curve inwardly at the top of each post of another three or four feet of wire, in order to keep them from climbing over the fence. They sleep in the open year round, in hollow trees and in hollow logs. These animals are not cross-bred, but are confined to their own kind, to keep the fur of the best quality possible.

Millinery Extremes



PRETTY FROCK FOR DANCING.

Can Easily Be Made at Home from Plain Dress Pattern.

This pretty dancing frock has a fancy shaped yoke of sheer muslin or batiste, with a simple design embroidered in daisies. The back matches the front, and the lace is set on the back, the length of the shoulder, to match the line on the front. The lace, instead of ending at the neck, is laid in a curved line around the neck of the yoke, one inch below the finishing point. The back is done in the same manner and one row of insertion finishes the neck of the dress at the neck line. There is

PLAITED SKIRTS ARE PASSE.

Don't Try to Make Them Over, is Advice of Expert.

The platted skirt is passe. The proper thing is the many gored skirt, guileless of plaits. Yet we all have a platted skirt or two.

Shall it be ripped, sponged, the fullness taken out and the gores recut into plain, unplatted gores, asks Anne Rittenhouse in the Philadelphia Ledger. Then she says:

"The earnest advice of anyone who knows is against this process. It is true that plain gored skirts are in first style, and if a woman is ordering a new suit she must be guided by this fact, but this does not argue that the platted skirt is hopelessly out of style. 'It is never a good plan to recut a cloth skirt. When one has to deal with cloth, it is hard to give it the tailor finish and keep it in style after it has been cut and pulled and ripped. 'Unless it is too far out of style to be permissible, far better wear it as it is. If it is not wearable, far better sell it or give it away than take the time and money to work on what cannot be a good job.'"



THE NEW DIRECTOIRE BELTS.

THE NEW DIRECTOIRE BELTS.

Novelties Come in All Shades, to Match the Costume Worn.

The woman with an eye for Christmas, or prizes, should invest in some of the directorie belts that are thought so smart just now. If she is clever at making things it is possible to save by buying materials.

These belts come in all the soft pastel shades, in black, white and dark colors, or can be made to match any suit. They are three or four inches wide and long enough to tie at the left side and hang almost to the knees.

Sometimes they are of satin, tucked in the middle and edged with ball fringe; again they are of satin ribbon and round cord, woven or platted in five strands, pointed at the ends and finished with a silk tassel.

When worn with an ordinary suit these belts are knotted around the waist line; with high empire skirts they are adjusted to the line at the top and fastened with a flat slide with a hook underneath that goes into a catch at the side of the skirt.

Formula for Javelle Water.
Javelle water, invaluable for removing mildew and rust stains, may be made at home in the following manner:

Place four pounds of bicarbonate of soda into a large granite or porcelain-lined can and pour over it four quarts of hot water.

Stir with a stick until the soda has dissolved, add a pound of chloride of lime and stir until this also has dissolved.

Allow the liquid to cool in the pan, strain the clear portion through thin cloths into wide-mouthed bottles or jugs and cork tightly for use.

The part that contains the sediment may also be bottled and used for cleaning sinks, kitchen tables, etc.

For Falling Hair.

Ammonia is an effectual stimulant. Washing the scalp often in soft water containing ammonia, two spoonfuls to a large basin of water, a teaspoonful of glycerine added to the water will prevent any harshness of the hair from its use. The tips of the hair should be trimmed once a month by careful examining and cutting the tip from every hair that seems dead or split.

To Preserve Patent Leather.

If you want your patent leather shoes to look really nice, clean them with French harness polish, which you can buy at any saddler's or harness-maker's. Rub it on thinly, then polish with a soft, wooly cloth. Besides making the shoes shine beautifully, this prevents the leather from cracking.

A Recipe for Cologne.

Only very delicate and carefully prepared toilet waters should be used.

A good cologne is made of the following ingredients: Essence of lemon, ten grams; essence of cedrat, ten grams; essence of bergamot, ten grams; essence of fine lavender, ten grams; essence of rosemary, four grams; essence of thyme, two grams; alcohol, two quarts. Mix the essences with the alcohol and filter through paper.

Non-Crushable Velvets.

Velvets and velveteens will be prominent this autumn and winter, and they have never been of lighter weight or more serviceable-looking white. Some have the advantage of being "non-crushable." Striped velvets will be used to trim cloth-tailored gowns.