IN THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN.

MIDWINTER FEATURES OF FASHION.

Costumes for Young and Old, for Dinners and Dances.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—"With the sole exception of a wedding dress more character, poetry and delicate sentiment can be expressed by an evening gown than any other costume a woman wears. So much faith do I put in the indications of soul and temperament as signified by these robes of light and beauty that should you show me a girl's dancing frock or a matron's dinner dress I believe I would very nearly tell you all about the wearers. Women, for instance, who patronize blue are sincere creatures, unassuming and not a bit grasping in their methods, while a woman who wears pink is a latent coquette, cold as she may appear, and those who gown themselves in red thirst for attention, while—"

"Oh, go on, go on," cried incredulous but interested Maisie, "but where did you acquire all this mental magic?" inquiringly of the hostess, who sat in the shadow of her own bay window's lace curtains, daintily embroidering.

"Oh, I chaperoned a pretty miss to a big dance last week, an assembly, and as my ankle won't yet permit any waltzing, I sat against the wall, talked to the stray men and drew my sage conclusions and moralizations from the sight of the gay world under the gas light.

Gowns for Duds.

"The season is so young yet that all the dancing frocks were as fresh as dew

THE DEBUTANTE'S GOWN.

sprinkled flowers, and quite as pretty, and I took note that all the girls that may proptissue, in tints so pale that they merely suggested color. That is distinctly a French fashion, and I privately commented on the numbers of buds whose sole jeweled ornaments were pins in the form of sprays or stars, fastening narrow neck bands of black velvet, the ends of which crossed in front over the young and pretty collar bone points and contrasted dazzingly with the white throats.

"Those who had not these ornaments appeared wearing the quaintest old neckties of seed pearls. Seed pearls seem somehow very complimentary to fresh girlhood, just as an arrangement of the hair in a soft twist low at the back of the head is perfectly in harmony with youth.

The Clytie Coil.

"Out of a dozen buds, whose experience in this restless world of society extends over not more than three weeks, I counted not less than 8 per cent with their hair in the Clytie coil. It is quite a different knot from the Langtry, for it is not so low down and does not hang in a clumsy club on the neck. There is a white part running from brow to crown, and it appears most proper and coquettish to catch one gold filagree topped tucking comb in the soft bandeau just above the brow. Older women who follow this mode use a comb with a very open worked brilliant studded top to thrust in the front hair, while the stately dowagers have found infinite pleasure in the use of black lace wings artfully edged with dazzling rhinestones. The handsomest tiaras are hardly more effective than these wings, and if I had not put all my cash and credit for months to come in one evening cloak I would be displaying elfin wings in my hair with the best."

Gorgeous Evening Cloaks.

"There is just the rub we all feel now," quoth the listener ruefully, snapping the lid of her jewel set cigarette case filled with innocuous visiting cards. "At my last ball so beautiful and showily elaborate were many of the cloaks that the women deliberately wore them into the drawing room before taking leave of their hostess, trying to pretend they had forgotten their manners until the lovely wraps were donned. Some I saw were wholly of ruched chiffon upon a lining of ermine, with collars like fairy fortresses about the necks, and great bouquets of velvet flowers on one shoulder, whence down front and rear fell ropes of blossoms."

"Shocking extravagance," sighed the hostess, enviously, "now mine does not come nearly up to that. Where I had no lace I hung plenty of white silk fringe.

"Ostrich feather fans," continued the hostess, "are coming into fashion with a rush, six-stick fans receiving the preference over all others, and one that captured my fancy had three of its dark tortoise shell sticks overlaid with dusky plumes and over three spangled black gauze was stretched, and a more brilliant thing you can't imagine. It was carried by a woman who wore an altogether entrancing and not to my calculating mind a cruelly expensive costume of an eau de nil crepe de chine. With perfect confidence in her figure she had had it laid in broad over-lapping horizontal tucks to her knees and below flowered forth a floor-sweeping flounce adequately garnished with cream lace. Her waist was offset with a dear little lace jacket held across the bust by a couple of black velvet straps barred with tiny brilliant buckles. I made it my business to observe that her slippers were of black kid with three straps over the instep and the toes sprinkled with black beads, amid which some tiny rhinestones sparkled. These are the dancing shoes of the well dressed women I discovered at my ball.

"There were some stunning frocks in evidence as well, of satin antique, now always worn in preference to duchess satin, while paune takes a third place in popularity, and to my eyes it would seem as if all the women wore nothing but lace for garnishment."

How to Use Lace.

"And has your acute vision also observed that the lace on all these fine frocks is laid on flat in the old-fashioned style, in order to bring out the beauty of the pattern, that is, if it is lace of any charm and value whatsover?" chimed in Maisie.

"No, I had not remarked that, but I've not failed to be impressed with the wonderful amount of silver gray the young matrons wear. A silver gray satin antique, heartened up with diamonds and point lace and cloaked with ermine, is Mrs. Jack Astor's favorite gown of this season."

"Ah, my dear girl, one must have the figure and coloring of Mrs. Astor for that," interrupted Maisie, casting a glance of frank disapproval at her own thin, dusky beauty in a big mirror opposite her chair.

"You should wear warm coral pinks, rich golden yellows, in light cloudy goods suitable to youth. Besides, don't let yourself be influenced in behalf of the heavy laces. They are not for the young and sprightful—chear machlin, Louis Sixteenth and point de nice are the types the dressmakers insist on for young girls. A perfect model for a slender thing of just your age I saw only yesterday sent from my conturiere to its owner, a bud of this season. Its skirt of pale lavender point esprit, striped perpendicularly every few inches with an insertion of mechlin, fell upon a foundation petticoat of pure spring sky blue. The simple little body with its 'kerchief finish about the shoulders was also made of lace and net over blue and the ornaments to be used with this were a necklet and pins set with amethyst. If the wearer of that gown is in the least a pretty woman imagine what a lovely picture she will make in it."

A sly smile grew about the caller's red lips as the clock chimed out the half hour and she snuggled her flower-like face into the depths of a chinchilla-lined collar.

"Perhaps you will see that lovely picture in the point esprit gown sooner than you guess, my dear, and for your compliment on my taste I am no end obliged."

MARY DEAN.

WHICH IS THE HANDSOMEST?

Comparative Measurements of Eastern and Western College Girls.

The most interesting comparisons have been drawn by Prof. Jay W. Seaver of Yale between the types of girlhood to be found in the eastern and western section of the country from the statistics compiled by the authorities in the different colleges in the two localties. The figures represent girls of the same age and general development, reports the Philadelphia Times, and unless there are some marked differences throughout the districts from which the institutions draw their students it would be safe to assume that there was no difference in the physical characteristics of our women the country over. But some very striking differences are found and from them the conclusion may be deduced that the environment of our women is affecting them and that the future may be moulded in proportion to the care that is taken to counteract the evil effects of our surroundings and to enhance the good.

The study that Prof. Seaver has made includes over 5,000 girls. They are drawn from three localities. One represents the western type purely, as typified in the University of Nebraska; the second represents the middle western type, as found in Oberlin college, and the third class represents the eastern type as displayed in the ranks of Wellesley college. It is found that while they differ in minor respects there is no material difference between the western and middle west. They may be classified together. But the eastern type is essentially distinctive and must be considered alone.

Unquestionably the principal difference lies in the greater percentage of urban population in the east than in the west, though the freer habits of the west contribute their share and the different progenity of the districts, though almost obliterated, has a small influence. But whatever the influences that serve to produce the conditions they can be well studied and the future generation of all districts improved by a judicious use of suitable exercises.

Here are some of the physical peculiarities that are disclosed by these tables. First, that the Wellesley woman is taller and heavier than the typical woman of either of the western groups, while the Oberlin and Nebraska women are about the same size and weight. The increased frequency of the Teutonic element in the western group probably accounts for the difference. The eastern type partakes more of the long-legged and short-trunked type which seems to be characteristic of the tendency in modern development.

The symmetry that exists in the length of the upper extremities is remarkable, although there seems to be a greater length of foot in the eastern group than in either of the others. In girths the record of head circumference seems to be larger in the eastern group, and according to the general law that seems to obtain among men this larger girth of head is accompanied by a larger girth of neck, although all the chest measurements are found to be considerably below the standard set by either of the western colleges. This poor development of chest is in an important region of the body and would seem to indicate less vitality and certainly less endurance of working power. They also fall below in girth of hips, while the waist girth is essentially the same.

In girth of upper arm the eastern groups excel, while in girth of forearm they are markedly deficient. This may be explained if the western type has been more accustomed to physical work, which would tend to reduce any fatty tissue from the upper arm and would give marked muscular development through the forearm. This conclusion would seem to be established by the larger thigh measurements found in the eastern group, as this is a region that readily lends itself to storage of fatty tissue, and the larger calf girth would show exercise in walking.

In breadths the contour of the head is different in the various groups, the broadest one being found in the extreme west, where, as was said, the Teutonic element is probably the largest. One would naturally expect the largest head breadth to be found in the east, where the head girth is the largest. The breadth of shoulders seems to be the same in all groups, although the broader neck is found where the larger head has to be supported.

In depths the eastern group leads, showing a rounder type of figure, and the Oberlin group seems to be especially deficient in this regard. This may be due to the farm life that has moulded so large a percentage in this group, and that this influence is obliterated to some extent by the Teutonic element in the far western group. The chest type is due to some influence outside of college life, or to a different form of physical training than is in vogue in the different institutions.

Finally, it is of great interest to notice that the Nebraska woman has a much larger lung capacity, as she has larger chest girth, and this item alone would indicate a higher type of physical ability and a previous life of greater activity than is found in either of the two other classes. In this regard the eastern college seems to have a better record than would be anticipated from the girths, and it seems to be a fact, derived from a tabulation of the measurements of Oberlin students who have taken systematic exercise, that this element rapidly increased and that the Oberlin student should stand next to the Nebraska student in this particular.

These, then, are the main variations. The comparatively slight causes that produce them are encouraging in that they seem to indicate that a correction of the evils is readily reached by the aplication of the proper remedy. It effectually argues the necessity and benefit of physical culture.

WOMEN IN ELECTRICITY.

A Field Well Suited for Them, with a Few Now in It.

There are possibly fifty women in the United States who have taken either a full or a partial course in electricity at one of the co-educational colleges or from private instructors, reports the New York Sun. A few of these are now owners and managers of electric lighting and electric car plants in various parts of the country, and one hears of them through the New York manufacturers of electrical goods. At Ellenville, N. Y., at Bay City, Mich., at Saginaw and other places are electric plants run by women. Certain women students have taken a course in electricity to supplement medical and surgical knowledge, and are conducting private sanitariums in various places or are employed as assistant managers in hospitals and asylums where electricity is used as a remedial agent. Other students of electrical laws and principles have put their knowledge to creative purposes and have invented articles more or less important in the practical application of electricity.

A host of women and many young girls are employed in the large manufactories of electric goods. They make all the filaments for the lamps. They wind the armatures for the dynamos. They wind and cover with spun silk or paper miles and miles of wire, small and large, used in the induction coils, in the great underground cables and on the magnets for telephone receivers and switch-

A QUIET, BUT ELEGANT DINNER DRESS.

boards. These women tip all the cords, solder all the deft and delicate work necessary in such departments. Three hundred and more women work on such matters in a single New York City factory and a new workroom of wide capacity is just being added which will give work to 100 more. There are five or six expert forewomen instructing and supervising the others. In the factories at Harrison, Schenectady, Pittsburg, Chicago and other places there are double and treble this number of women and girls. Some are merely mechanical specialists working day in and day out with the same tools or machinery on the same part of the same order of substance. Others are versatile and can turn their deftness to account in any needed direction. The first-class workers have the chance of promotion and of having always steady work at good wages as long as they wish to stay. The factories are anxious for intelligent girls to teach.

There are several women who use their insight into electric science to write what may be termed popular articles on the subject for various daily papers and periodicals. Others give lectures on electricity in out-of-town places, and also give more or less sound class instruction at private schools and institutions. Some women are advertising agents for the makers of electro-therapeutical goods and apparatus. These women are sufficiently versed in their subject to speak intelligently, even eloquently, of the stock they handle. And these goods range from the humbug electric hair brush, or electric belts, to really high-grade apparatus. Electricity is an agent that bends itself readily to the sensationalist and the smatterers in many lines, and it has been taken up by many people who live by duping the ignorant or the credulous. Any one inquiring into the subject hears of those just as he hears of fakirs in other callings and professions, but the fact remains that, although the number of women graduates in electricity is not one-fifth that of women graduates in law, in theology, in political science, in botany, those who have mastered the study have made a notable success of it.

The foremost woman in electric science anywhere in the world is Mrs. Bertha Ayrton of London. She has made very remarkable investigations of the phenomena of the electric arc and contributued valuable data on this subject to the important scientific journals. In May last she read a paper before the English Institute of Electrical Engineers, the first paper ever read before that body by a woman, and it contained matter of much moment. Wherever electrical and scientific deliuations are of value this woman's name is known. She is the wife of Prof. W. E. Ayrton, the noted electrical authority, and is recognized in Great Britain, on the continent and here in America, where electrical genius has made such great strides, as having been of marked assistance to the science. She is wholly a scientist and has not put her knowledge to practical use, except in the fundamental way of helping others to enlightenment. There are other English women who are working practically as electricians.

The particular star among American women electricians is Miss Bertha Lamme of Pittsburg, who is a full-fledged electrical engineer, with five years' practical work to her credit. Miss Lamme is on the staff of engineers for the Westinghouse Manufacturing company. She is a graduate of the Ohio university and is a native of Ohio, of Dutch ancestry. She designs machinery, makes calculations and does exactly the work of a man electrical engineer. She is between 25 and 28 years old.

A woman who is familiar with influence machine coils, alternators, batteries, meters and current controllers, as the majority of women are with bonnets and skirt extenders, styles and fashion knickknacks, is Dr. Margaret Cleaves, formerly of Iowa, now of New York. In matters pertaining to the application of electricity as a physician's agent she occupies a place in public esteem like that which Miss Lamme has won for herself as an electrical engineer. In the words of an eminent authority, physicians, when they use electricity, are also electrical engineers, only their workshop holds problems of health and of life and death. Like all people who do the things that are really worth while doing, Dr. Cleaves keeps her own counsel as to her achievements, and but for the inklings let fall at the electrical headquarters where she gets her apparatus, and the testimony yielded by the pupils she has taught, her ability would only be known to those directly concerned, the physicians she has assisted and the patients she helped. She is chief director in an exclusively electro-therapeutic clinic and instructs graduated physicians daily and weekly in the principles of electricity as a curative medium. For eight months in the year she is instructor and preceptor and has turned out more than fifty women graduates in this electro-medical branch of knowledge, and has assisted in the instruction of men students who have since established schools of their own along the same lines. Gray-headed physicians of twenty-five years in active practice attend this woman's clinic. These physicians come from all parts of the country, from Oregon and Washington, from Alabama and Tennessee and even from India. Dr. Cleaves also writes for the medical journals on subjects pertaining to her work and she has devised various electric apparatus tending to promote convenience in certain phases of treatment. These are recognized as of value to the profession. Dr. Cleaves' proficiency is additionally interesting because her college and, later, her physician's course were finished and complete some time before she took up the study of electricity. A graduate of the Iowa State university, she had gained a name for herself and held various important offices in state medical and charitable institutions, both in Iowa and in Pennsylvania before she turned to electricity as an aid to medicine. She is unmarried, absorbed in her profession and on every possible occasion goes abroad for further study and experiment in electrical science. Dr. Cleaves was formerly instructor in electro-therapeutics at the Post Graduate Medical school, the only woman to occupy a place of the sort in any New York hospital.

There are fifty physicians in this country having women assistants whom they have instructed and who they say are efficient in administering electric treatment. These women are familiar with the electric arc bath as a substitute for sunshine to a diseased or ailing body. They know about hydro-electric applications, galvanic currents and something about dose measurements. They are not scientists, but, from constant familiarity with electrical apparatus and its manipulation, they are able to treat patients.

On the subject of women in electrical matters it is of interest to know that one of the five examiners in the electrical department at the patent office in Washington is a woman. She has been at her post for many years, and was one of the first women in the country to study electricity as a science. Her duties include the keeping track of all inventions and applications for inventions relating to electricity in any form, and she has to have practical as well as scientific knowledge of the availability of the articles submitted. Most of the patents granted to women in this department relate to medical appliance, some few to mechanical uses.

AN ANCIENT LOVE LETTER.

Marriage Proposal to an Egyptian Princess Written 3,500 Years Ago.

The oldest known love letter in the world is in the British museum. It is a proposal of marriage for the hand of an Egyptian princess and it was written 3,500 years ago. It is in the form of an inscribed brick, and is therefore not only the oldest, but the most substantial love letter in existence.

The first silver wedding dates back to the time of Hugues Capet. Two servants belonging to him had grown gray in his service, a man and a woman, and what could he do as a reward? Calling the woman he said: "Your service is great, greater than this man's whose service is great enough, for the woman always finds work harder than a man, and, therefore, I will give you a reward. At your age, I know of none better than a dowry and a husband. The dowry is here—this farm from this time forth belongs to you. If this man who has worked with you five and twenty years is willing to marry you, then the husband is ready."

"Your majesty," said the old peasant, "how is it possible that we should marry, having already silver hairs?"

"Then it shall be a silver wedding," and the king gave the couple silver enough to keep them in plenty. This soon became known all over France and raised such enthusiasm that it became a fashion after twenty-five years of married life to celebrate a silver wedding.

The practice of the wife assuming the husband's name at marriage is a Roman custom and originated soon after the Roman occupation. Julia married to Pompey, became "Julia of Pompey." In latter times married women signed their names in the same manner, but omitted the "of." However, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the usage seems doubtful, since we find Catharine Parreo signing herself after she had been twice married. In Iceland the opposite has always been the custom. There, after marriage, the husband assumes the wife's name.

The word "wedding" is derived from the "wed" or security which the Anglo-Saxon bridegroom gave at espousals for the due performance of his contract. This "wed" was held by trustees, and, in addition to it, the groom wore an espousal ring. As for the wedding ring, it was first designed by Prometheus, according to tradition, and fashioned out of adamant and iron by Tubal Cain, and was given by Adam to his son to this end, that he therewith should espouse a wife.

Our wedding cake is the remains of a custom whereby a Roman bride held in her left hand three wheat ears, and many centuries later an English bride wore a chaplet of wheat. The bridesmaids threw grains of corn or small bits of cake upon the heads of the newly married and the guests picked up the pieces and ate them. The wedding cake did not come into general use until the last century and was then composed of solid blocks, laid together, iced all over, so that when the outer crust was broken over the bride's head the cakes inside fell on the floor and were distributed among the guests. Bridal favors are of Danish origin, the true lover's knot having been first designed by Danish hearts and deriving its designation from the Danish truelofa—"I plight my troth."

The throwing of a slipper comes from the custom of a shoe being given by the father of the bride to the new husband, in token of transference of power over her, the groom lightly tapping the bride's head with it.

The best man is the survivor of a band of friends who accompanied the suitor in his wife winning and kept watch for him over the bride's tribe, while the lover sought the opportunity to carry off his prize. The honeymoon journey is the hurried flight of the husband with his wife to escape the vengeance of the pursuing tribe. The presents given the bridemaids and ushers are simply a relic of the rough bribery used by the ancient bridegroom among his personal friends so that they would assist in the capture of his chosen bride when the day arrived on which he had determined to carry her off. In the fifteenth century a bride—if one of the aristocracy—often received twenty rings from her relatives and six from the bridegroom—two when he became interested in her, two for the espousal and two when they were married.

Frills of Fashion.

Tulle hats trimmed with crepe roses are one of the latest novelties.

Grenache satins, trimmed with chiffon and lace, make charming evening dresses.

White cloth cut out in diamond-shaped openings filled in with guipure lace and made over pale blue silk forms one of the princess gowns.

Pale pink coral ornaments set with diamonds are among the novelties in expensive jewelry set forth for the winter trade.

A hair net which fastens at the back of the head with a fancy pin the size of a small button is a novelty which is supposed to keep the short locks in place.

A pretty evening waist is made of a lattice design in jet over white mousseline de soie, finished around the neck with a drapery of white tulle and a bunch of pink roses.

All sorts of finger rings put on regardless of harmony in color and shape are considered vulgar by those who study effect and good taste in the use of jewels as well as gems and hats.

The rough diagonal and cheviots for serviceable tailor-gowns look heavy, but they are woven so delicately and made of such fine, pure wool as to weigh but little more than a firm drap d'ete.

Tulle evening gowns are made with box plaited skirts, the plaits beginning at either side of the front and extending around the back or all around, as you like, and caught down to the knee. Another skirt of tulle is worn underneath and the silk foundation skirt should have no gloss.

There is a new point to be chronicled—the postillon backs on some of the new waists and Etons of cloth, silk or velvet. This is a style that is more becoming to many women than any sort of round waist, however smartly made, and if the ends are not exaggerated in length is particularly good for plain tailor costumes of cloth, tweed or cheviot.

Pointed, deeply scalloped and graduated silk fringes were among the imported novelties in dress trimmings shown to holiday shoppers. They are in various widths and colors, from the Tom Thumb variety to styles half a yard deep and finished with very wide meshed tops. These revived trimmings show also jet, chenille and crimped faille ribbon an eighth of an inch wide, intermixed with the silk fringes of the more elaborate variety.

The new Ellen Terry teagown suggests both comfort, luxury and quaint picturesqueness. It is made of various rich or dainty fabrics, including white cashmere dotted and striped in pink, cherry red and other colors; gray dran d'ete with old-rose satin trimmings, pale blue Henrietta cloth or camel's hair bordered with gray swan's-down, and a number of less expensive French-made styles, in plain and fancy flannel and eiderdown-lined crepon.

Talk About Women.

A woman deputy United States marshal has just been sworn into service at Dallas—the first instance of the kind in Texas.

Mrs. George A. Pillsbury of Minneapolis made a Christmas present of $5,000 to the Calvary Baptist church of that city.

Mrs. J. H. Sperry, an agent of the Colorado Humane society, served as one of the jurors summoned by the coroner to investigate a death the other day. Colorado has had woman suffrage for six years, but this appears to be the first case of a woman serving on a jury in that state.

A young society girl of New York, Miss Beatrix Jones, a daughter of Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, wants to be made landscape artist for the grounds of the new cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Washington. It is said that she is likely to get the appointment. Miss Jones has done this kind of work with success.

That intellect expands early in the great west is shown by Miss Belle Flemming of Pauls Valley, I. T., who is only 17 years old, and yet has been admitted to practice law at the bar of the United States court of the Northern district of the territory. Miss Flemming has been amusing herself with Blackstone and Kent since she was 11 years old.

That Susan B. Anthony is a vigorous woman despite her 80 years was recently shown in Detroit, when in three days she addressed a business college, three women's clubs, attended two large dinners and a luncheon given in her honor, presided at a Unitarian meeting, visited her friends and sat for a photographer.

The Countess Canavarro, a Texas girl who married Coun. Canavarro, Portuguese

SHOWING HOW SHE WEARS HER DIAMOND COMBS.

minister to Hawaii, some fifteen years ago and who left her husband to go to Ceylon with Dharmapalo, a Buddhist priest, whom she met at the World's fair, has written to friends in San Francisco that she is in distress and has applied to them for assistance.

Mlle. Anna Klumpke, who was Rosa Bonheur's legatee, has informed the president of the Society of French Artists that she intends to honor the memory of her friend by founding an annual Rosa Bonheur prize of $300, to be awarded by the jury of the salon for the most meritorious work of the year, without regard to the sex or nationality of the artist.

Mrs. J. C. Croly, who has just rounded her seventy years, is the literal embodiment of the woman's movement, being not only the progenitor of woman's clubdom, but the pioneer press woman of the country. Few of her contemporaries know that her pen name, "Jennie June," is one of the sweetest reminiscences of her childhood. When she was only 22 years of age a gentleman who had been visiting her family wrote to a friend: "She is the funniest little girl I ever knew." In after years, when she made her first adventure into print and sought for a signature, she remembered the quaint fancy and promptly became "Jennie June."

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3	8	9	3	1	7	15			

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