

## GOWNS AND GOWNING

### WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

Brief Glances at Fancies Feminine, Fritolous, Mayhap, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading Proves Restful to Weighed Womankind.

Gossip from Gay Gotham.  
New York correspondence.



VERY care should be taken with house dresses, and it is a very foolish woman who slights them. The wise woman knows that it is easy enough to look her best when she is, so to speak, on parade, and it is no matter of difficulty to make a good impression and to plan a gown that shall second one's best effort to please for a half hour or an evening, but to be attractive at home, to make the people who see you every day look a second time and say, "I never saw you looking better," or even "prettier," that's a problem to tax the wits of a witch. To meet all the requirements of domestic, social and intimate home life and be gowned suitably and becomingly for all, that's a question. To go on giving the husband surprises, to ward off the sneer of one's best woman friend who happens in at inopportune times, and then goes away and tells how you have "gone off" since your marriage, all these things need constant and careful thought. It is, in a word, safe to be well dressed every minute at home. To allow yourself an off moment when you think no one will see you, or to go trailing about in un-



FOR A DOWNSTAIRS BREAKFAST.

tidy unbecomings, is practically to confess that no one cares how you look. Commence at the day's beginning to carry this out. Don't allow yourself to turn out of bed, as some women do, and stand around through a portion of your toilet in your night dress. Even those women that claim artistic beauty and all that for the night dress time their praises to the hours of moonlight and gas jets, and admit that in the glare of morning it becomes a different matter. While to have a dainty substitute is not a necessity, it yet is not an affectation; and if a garment's beauty be sufficient excuse for its employment, as some claim it is, then the adorable gown of becoming soft silk, fluffy with ruffles, that is to be slipped on over the night dress is beyond the need of advocates. The first picture gives a dainty suggestion for such a garment. It has big sleeves, and knots in at the waist with a sash tie. Thus, all in a moment, a woman makes a new picture of herself. If that particular friend happens in, or the dressmaker, or some one who must be seen, there is further service for it. There are such luxurious women, that, in a gown like this, they have their breakfast coffee and roll. Then in illness, what could tend more to making the patient better than to feel that when the doctor comes he will find that she is far from a fright. Such a gown may be made of soft flannel, and may show the pretty neck, or be high about the throat, just as seems the most becoming. Attired in it a woman will be every bit as fetching as when she is arrayed for a formal breakfast.

For the latter, when a gown is wanted that will be loose and easy, try something of the Empire kind. The Mother



AS MORNING ENDS.

Hubbard is an abomination. The man whose wife appears before him in one ought to be allowed a divorce at once on that ground alone. It is a problem to plan a gown that shall not be formal and tight and yet not wrapper-like and slouchy. A feasible design next has the artist's attention. It is cut princess, but follows the lines of the figure only

over the bust, the skirt spreading away from there. A cunningly devised arrangement of drapery can simulate partially the fit of a bodice, the gown showing above in yoke-effect. Beware of dumpiness in your wrappers, set the wily long-ended bow where it will do the most good, as in this model, for instance, at one shoulder, the ends hanging to the floor. Beware, too, of showing too much of the throat and neck in a morning gown. Nothing better becomes one than a high, close collar mounted with a ruche that clings close. Choose soft, "affording" colors. You may risk an unbecoming gown by gas light, but the color must be just right for the morning. Breakfast time is the test of a woman's beauty and of her taste in dress, too. It is a wise notion



AFTERNOON EXACTNESS.

to wear trained gowns as often as possible in the house. The young matron can simply revel in trains, thereby making herself look as dignified as can be, and can so impress her school friends who come to talk over old times that they will depart wondering how she ever grew to it all so quickly.

Nothing seems more suitably dignified and graceful for the house than a trained dress, especially those for early in the day when an effect of dishabille is admissible, but by noon you begin to be more trim. You need not look just like the next picture, but you should seem daintily groomed when you look over the bills, and perhaps appear before the awed tradesman to tell him that he has overcharged, or that "Mr. Jones does not approve" of something. You may wear a trained skirt still, but the belt needs to be distinctly defined, even though you wear over your shoulders some dainty fichu affair with long tabs that hang below the waist line. There are lots of these affairs that give just that air of dressiness without which a woman cannot afford to be at home. It is just this attention to detail that makes the "somebody" of home feel just the least bit "sprinkled" for, and nothing so flatters a man as to see that his wife is fixing up to please him.

By afternoon you must be more trim. Give up the train, have the gown fit more snugly, let the material be crisp, and play a general effect of exactness. All sorts of pretty effects are to be had



IN THE GRAY OF DOMESTICATION.

out of the half-jacket model. Follow this next pictured one and try a bodice that looks like a blouse snugly fitted in at the waist by a close belt. Little faring jacket skirts show below the belt. The blouse fastens under the arm; in front it is slashed from throat to bust line, and turned back in coat collar revers to show a pleated yoke. The blouse has no sleeves, only extending epaulettes that stand out over the under sleeves, which are of material to match the yoke. Let this blouse be some dainty-flowered challis or wash stuff, and the yoke, sleeves and skirt of plain color.

As much as possible, go in for wash goods for the house. All the dresses suggested can be made of wash goods. There are women that have their summer garden dresses all made with a view to house wear in the winter, and some of the very sweetest hostesses are starting the fashion of afternoon and morning receiving in cotton dresses, the lovely crepes that you can't tell from wool without touching them. The sleeveless blouses described herein are very pretty made in openwork, all-over wash stuff, showing a solid color and material beneath, but whatever you wear look your best in the house, no matter what the time of day.

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Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson is recovering, though slowly, from his recent serious illness. He is still confined to his bed, but a few of his most intimate friends are now permitted to see him for a few minutes each day.

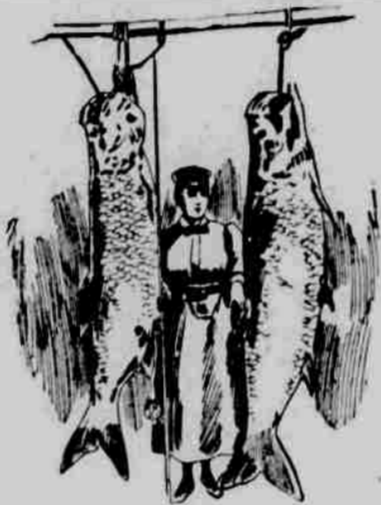
Bad habits are as infectious by example as the plague itself is by contact. —Fielding.



## FOR WOMEN AND HOME

### CHAMPION WOMAN ANGLER.

If any proof were needed that main strength is a secondary consideration with the practiced angler it could be found in a recent experience of Mrs. J. N. Patterson, of Philadelphia, who with her husband is passing the winter in Florida. Mrs. Patterson is an enthusiastic angler, and is able to show unexpected endurance considering her petite figure. One day last week her husband made what was for him an unexpected fly good catch—better than anything Mrs. Patterson had as yet been able to do. Of course, he bantered his better half freely on her supposed lack of ability with her rod and line. Roused by his teasing, Mrs. Patterson rose early the next morning, called her boatman and rowed out on the Caloosahatchee River, where tarpons are said to abound. The morning was pleasant, and there was every indication that the tarpons were hungry. In a very short time one was hooked, and then began an exciting struggle. The tarpon is a very timid fish of the herring kind, and his timidity, coupled with his



MRS. PATTERSON'S WONDERFUL CATCH.

great size, and strength, makes him a desirable prey to the angler. After Mrs. Patterson had hooked her fish it took twenty minutes of hard fighting to tire him out. Then he was hauled up alongside and gaffed by an enormous hook fastened to a pole. This implement was handled by the boatman, Mrs. Patterson relaxing the feminine character of the proceedings far enough to permit of his humble assistance. The fish weighed 107 pounds and was 5 feet 8 inches in length.

Not content with this prize and determined to forever stop her husband's good-humored boasting about the catch he had made, Mrs. Patterson baited her hook again. An hour passed before she got a second bite, but it was a whopper. The monster made heroic efforts to break away, but there was a new woman on the other end of the line and all his struggles were unavailing. She let the fish leap and roll and plunge and dive as it would, the line was always stretched out to the proper degree of tautness. It took sixteen minutes to kill this fish, which was exactly six feet long and weighed 120 pounds.

Mrs. Patterson was back in the hotel in time to catch her husband and other guests at breakfast. As may be supposed she did not fail to compare her champion catch with that regarding which he had boasted so much. Residents of the neighborhood declare that Mrs. Patterson's basket was the biggest ever landed by a woman.

### Proper Position for Waiters.

The objectionable method of encircling a young woman's waist while in the act of waiting has been subjected to adverse criticism. The mode which now prevails is graceful, modest, and entirely consistent with propriety. To acquire the proper position the gentleman's left hand should be placed just below the shoulder of the lady. The body should incline slightly, and he should relax a little in order that artistic grace may be observed. He holds his partner's hand in his right, while his proficiency as a dancer and his good taste tell best how to dispose of the clasped hands.

### Good China Cement.

A cement for mending broken glass or china is made by dissolving half an ounce of gum arabic in a wineglassful of boiling water and adding enough plaster of Paris to make a thick paste. Apply it with a brush to the edges of the broken parts. Hold the pieces carefully together until the cement has hardened sufficiently for them to adhere. If the article to be mended is broken in several pieces, do not attempt to cement a second piece before the first has thoroughly hardened.

### Advice from Hetty Green.

A New York reporter a day or two ago interviewed Miss Hetty Green, "the richest woman in America," regarding the best way to invest small sums of money. Mrs. Green said: "I would advise any woman with \$500 at her command to invest it in real estate. She should buy the real estate at auction on occasions when circumstances have forced the sale. If she

will watch for such an opportunity it will surely come, and she will find that she can buy a parcel of land at one-third its appraised value. I regard real estate investment as the safest means of investing idle money. It does not always bring a steady interest, but it is less likely to depreciate in value than stocks, which are always somewhat uncertain. A woman with tact and ability will be on the alert to learn of a mortgage about to be foreclosed. In such cases she should negotiate with the owner of the property and give him enough to clear his debt, thus saving him the costs of a sale. Many a woman has profited by an opportunity of this kind. Of course, if a woman has \$500 cash and wishes to speculate she may branch out more broadly and take greater risks, with the prospect of greater returns. But she should bear in mind that real estate is the collateral to be preferred to all others."

### The Conservative Woman.

Writing of "The Conservative Woman," in the Ladies' Home Journal, Ruth Ashmore, considering her "as a companion," says her this pretty tribute: "She is the woman who with her husband and her sons is the best companion. She surrounds herself, unconsciously, with a spiritual atmosphere that is a rest to the weary, especially to the weary man. She is not a bigot. She is in sympathy with whatever work the man may be doing; in many ways she may help him with it, but when he has thrown off the trammels of labor he finds in her all the sweetness, all the rest and all the happiness that can be given by a woman who sets her life so that it is 'like perfect music unto perfect words.'"

### Sets the Style for Big Hats.

It has come. It is in the concrete, and it is making itself felt. It may lead to revolution and bloodshed; it may fill many asylums for the hopelessly mad, and may increase the mortality from suicide, but it is here and it will stay. Consuelo Vanderbilt, who is the Duchess of Marlborough, devised it, and it is named and hailed the "Marlborough Hat." Consuelo has revived the Elizabethan ruff, but her hat is her piece de resistance. It is making a sensation abroad, and is a success because it is essentially one of the queer things the scurrying years of the century's end are flinging off. The thing itself has a broad brim and a round top. It may be trimmed to suit any woman whose genius is diverted from usefulness in the direction of millinery. But this



Marlborough hat is of petunia velvet, which covers the crown and brim in soft, uneven folds. At the left are grouped three shorter ones black feathers, and three shorter ones flat negligently toward the front and repose on the brim. At the back is another cluster of three that nestle close to the hair. A giant chrysanthemum of the velvet is tucked on the brim on a bandeau. The Duchess has money enough to have all the hats her heart craves for and her heart craves for very many, and she has them. Sometimes she likes velvet and sometimes felt, but the shape remains constant. She'll have no dalliance with the shape. It's got to be Marlborough or nothing.

### Unique Novelty for the Nursery.

An excellent invention for the use of mothers and nurses has been brought out in London in the shape of a bath with a hammock hung in it, on which the baby can comfortably rest while it is being washed. It is really a capital invention, as the child can lie at its ease while it is being washed, while for timid children who object to being put into water it will prove invaluable, as the hammock will allow them to be thoroughly sponged without being immersed.

### Satin Underskirts with Lace Insertion.

The new underskirt has many charms and the pretty silk creation decked with lace is a costly article, but nevertheless a triumph of art. Silk underskirts are advancing in favor, and from the plain silk to the richest satin with lace insertions find ready demand. Silk skirts for spring will supplant the heavy, stiff, and weighty moreens recently revived.

## NOTES ON EDUCATION.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO PUPIL AND TEACHER.

Essential Requisites of a Good Teacher—Music Usually Poorly Taught—Cigarettes in Schools—Propriate Desk Work—Unsuitable Desks.

### What a Teacher Needs.

I. Character.—No one should assume to teach who does not possess genuine goodness. The aspirations of the teacher must be noble, his purpose pure, his daily life a model. So much depends on what the teacher is, that what she does is of secondary importance. The spirit of the teacher pervades the school. Character in action—attending to the multifarious duties of the school room, is a very powerful educational force. The teacher must be the man or woman. They must be synonymous. It is not enough to assume goodness. The article must be there. It must inhere in the nature of the teacher. The human soul exerts its greatest influence through character. This, then, is the first great need of the teacher.

II. Scholarship.—While we emphasize character, yet this alone is not sufficient for the teacher's office. One may be thoroughly good and upright, and yet be a very stupid individual. Goodness should be coupled with intelligence. The soul must energize as intellect. Scholarship lies at the foundation of one's success as a leader in the school-room. One cannot teach what she does not know.

Her knowledge should be clear, positive, and fresh. Through scholarship more than through any other channel the teacher secures the confidence of her pupils and wins their support in the execution of her plans. It pays to make daily preparation. Fresh knowledge serves a two-fold purpose in class instruction; it arouses interest and stimulates mental vigor. Some one has aptly said, "Thorough preparation is the foundation of all genius." My teacher friend, if your school work does not go to suit you, and you have been laying the blame upon your pupils, it might be that your trouble would disappear if you should improve your scholarship. A strong teacher may become stronger—a good one may become better. An investment in knowledge pays big dividends in satisfaction when applied to the matter of leadership in a school. Scholarship is also an important element in the government of the school. It puts the teacher in a position to do her best. It gives freedom. It multiplies eyes and ears. It doubles the value of an hour. It shortens the distance between a difficulty and its solution. The teacher needs scholarship.

III. Animation.—Nothing is so dispiriting as a slow, sluggish, inert teacher. Put such an individual in charge of a room full of bright, active boys and girls, and the result can easily be guessed. Human nature can stand a great deal, but childhood should not be deprived of the inspiration that comes from an active mind. The keen eye, the quick movement, the apt word, the ready sympathy, reveal the spirit of the teacher. Fussiness is not animation. It is not even a poor substitute. Animation is intellect in action. It is self asserting its best being. It is enthusiasm without egotism. "The teacher needs animation."

IV. Cheerfulness.—Life after all is what we make it. Long faces, sour dispositions and bad tempers can usually be traced back to selfishness. If we should spend half the time in trying to make other people happy that we now spend in fault-finding and complaining, we would no doubt double our own enjoyment. Good cheer in the schoolroom is wholesome. The teacher should not forget to smile. She should meditate that careworn countenance, look up into the heaven's blue and thank God that she has been called to be a teacher. Who can compute the value of the cheerful, sunny nature that presides at the teacher's desk day after day? We cannot afford to be gloomy. It costs too much. It results in loss of influence. It drives our pupils from us. On the other hand, cheerfulness is an inspiration.

"Laugh, and the world laughs with you." Smile, and you get a return message of the same kind. Our pupils reflect those things that are most prominent in our own daily lives. "We need cheerfulness."

V. Ready Speech.—Words are powerful things. The right word, at the right time and in the right place, with a soul behind it, has a wonderful potency for good. A teacher may talk too much. She should guard against this. But when talk is necessary the tones of the voice should be pure, the articulation should be distinct, the modulation should indicate interest and feeling, and there should be the proper animation. Too few teachers appreciate the good that flows from a cultivated voice. The expression of thought either orally or in written form, with clearness and precision, is one element of the good teacher. Select words with nice discrimination. The sharp, keen statement—the thought that is barbed—is the one that sticks. Many of the running remarks of teachers in the school room are valueless because they are thoughtless. "We need readiness in thoughtful speech." We also need to remember that "silence is golden."

VI. Heart Power.—The love element must be strong in the teacher. Her affections must set strongly toward those whom she would benefit. The power of making friends is heart power. You cannot do your best work for a pupil until you have his confidence and good will—until you have gained his friendship. Time spent in forming friendships is time put to good use. Sympathy springs from the affection. Through this channel the teacher enters the strongholds of the shut-in lives

of her pupils. By degrees they yield themselves to be molded and guided by her superior skill, through the love manifested in kindly acts. The element of love is a big factor in the primary teacher's success.

VII. There are various other needs that might be emphasized, such as patience, self-forgetfulness, gentleness, daily preparation, freedom from worry; and the list might be extended indefinitely, but to treat each separately would prolong this paper beyond its proper length. I will only add that the growing teacher must recognize her needs and reach out after that which will supply.—Iowa Schools.

### Music in the School.

To be able to govern a school, a teacher must first be able to govern himself, and then to succeed in teaching he must first know what to teach and then how to teach it.

Perhaps of the many branches of learning that are taught in our schools there is none more poorly taught than vocal music. It is not on account of the parents, however, as nearly all parents like to have their children sing, and there is nothing that places a teacher higher in the estimation of both parents and pupils than devoting a few well spent minutes each day in singing.

After the school has learned to sing well they may be taught to march to appropriate songs, and thus the two hand in hand form one of the most useful and developing exercises taught in a school.

Religious instruction is not tolerated in our schools; therefore you must reach the finer sensibilities of man in some other way. This way is singing. By it you may enable men to elevate their thoughts to higher and better planes in life.

Men in the earlier ages were first reclaimed from ferocity and brutality by the beautiful melodies which aroused the feelings of love for their fellow beings.

In these times of labor troubles and the diversity of interests of different parts of the country, it becomes a matter of importance to unite these conflicting elements.

The boy of to-day becomes the citizen of to-morrow; therefore inculcate these principles in his mind by means of patriotic songs, that teach him to be loyal to his God, and to his country.

Shakespeare says: "The man that hath no music in himself is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils."

And Carlyle says: "The meaning of the song goes deep," which means that it purifies the heart, refines and ennobles the feelings.

There is no better cultivation for the human voice than singing. It teaches the children to become independent in the use of voice, and thus lays the foundation for good readers. The rudiments and principles of music need to be firmly fixed in the mind. Much of this the children learn by imitation, such as beating time. They can readily see that A, B, C, are called pitch names; that 1, 2, 3, are called numeral names; and do, re, mi, are called syllable names. This can be shown quite nicely by the teacher's drawing the musical staff upon the blackboard, locating the letters and other signposts. Of course, where charts are available both labor and time may be economized. Careful attention needs to be paid to time and expression in music. They go together, and music becomes eloquent only when the executant sees farther than the notes and interprets the idea, just as the gifted orator goes back of mere words and gives us thought.

Every school room has its dull days, when the pupils become dull and restless. Let us then lay aside the books and sing, and see how soon it will arouse the benumbed faculties of both teacher and scholars, and bring back the heavenly sunshine.

"There's music in the sighing of a reed; There's music in the gushing of a rill; There's music in all things, if men had ears; Their earth is but an echo of the spheres."

—Educational News.

### Self-Reliance.

Insist on yourself; never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adopted talent of another you have only an extemporaneous, half-possession. That which each can do best, none but his Maker can teach him. No man yet knows what it is, nor can, till the person has exhibited it.

Where is the master who could have taught Shakespeare? Where is the master who could have instructed Franklin, or Washington, or Bacon, or Newton? Every great man is unique. The Scipionism of Scipio is precisely that part he could not borrow. If anybody will tell whom the great man imitates in the original crisis, when he performs a great act, I will tell him, who else than himself can teach him. Shakespeare will never be made by the study of Shakespeare. Do that which is assigned thee, and thou canst not hope too much.

There is at this moment, there is for me an utterance bare and grand as the colossal chisel of Phidias, or trowel of Egyptians, or the pen of Moses, or Dante, but different from all these. Not possibly will the soul all rich, all eloquent, with thousand cloven tongue, deign to repeat itself; but if I can hear what those patriarchs say, surely I can reply to them in the same pitch of voice, for the ear and the tongue are two organs of one nature. Dwell up there in the simple and noble regions of thy life, obey thy heart, and thou shalt reproduce the Foreworld again.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The practice of placing a roomful of pupils at desks of the same size has conduced to near-sightedness to an alarming extent, and to spinal disorders as well. This is the discovery of physical training in the public schools of Boston.