

THE SEASON'S FADS.

SOME PRETTY THINGS FOR WOMEN'S WEAR.

Fancy Lady's Ball Gown—Evening Gown—Winter Wedding Toilet—The Wedding Ring—Exchanging Dresses—Fashions in January.

White and yellow gowns prevail at weddings this season rather than the rose and white of last year. A maid of honor at a recent church wedding wore a lemon colored gown of crepe de Chine, trimmed with bands of dark brown fur around the neck and shoulders, outlining a yoke of white coral-patterned lace. Similar fur bands



bordered the demi-train. Her bouquet was of yellow jonquils, tied with wide white satin ribbon in long loops and ends. The bride's dress of white satin had a high round waist, with a broad sash of the same crossing the back like a corset, and tied in front in a great bow with hanging ends—a feature of many new dresses. A group of bridesmaids at a second fashionable wedding wore pale yellow gowns of ladies' cloth edged with sable. Chiffon is now combined with fur in all the pretty ways used for lace at the beginning of the winter. At a notable international wedding the widow bride was richly dressed in a velvet gown of the palest Parma-violet shade. The back of this gown is a princess train, and the front has coat forms trimmed with point-lace. A small bonnet of violet velvet and lace had an algerette and ostrich feather tips. The jewels were very handsome pearls, and the gloves were pearl white.

Exchanging Dress Wear. A peculiar feature of the English woman's journals is the "exchange" column, wherein the woman who has a "silver fox muff, boa and Medici collar," and on account of going into mourning desires to exchange it for a Persian lamb collar and muff makes it manifest. One lady offers in this column a "lovely Persian kitten; exchange to the value of \$1; heney wanted." Another offers to exchange a pair of exquisite Dresden china candelabra for "anything useful." Magazines and reviews also proffered in exchange in other magazines and books. The woman who is tired of her parrot will give it in exchange for the pig that some other woman is equally tired of petting. Plants are offered to obtain poultry in return, and everything but husbands and deformities are advertised. Nothing of this kind, convenient "swapping," as the Yankees say, is done in this country except at the Woman's exchange, where impoverished women offer their rare laces, valuable bric-a-brac, silver souvenirs, etc. for sale at fabulously high prices, and with the owner's name kept strictly unknown.

Young Lady's Ball Gown. This pretty gown is of pink gauze which has a border on one side of gold-edged satin stripes in graduated lengths. It is mounted on pink tulle. The lower part of the skirt has the bordered side of the gauze at the bot-



tom, and is edged with a thick pinked silk ruche. Above this is a second skirt five yards wide, taken with the border toward the top, gathered at the lower edge of the front and edged with a ruche, and hanging in two draperies at the back. The low pleated bodice has draped sleeves surmounted by a ruche. A ribbon sash starts from under a bow at the top of the back, is brought forward under the arms to meet the pointed belt, and tied in a bow at the waist in the back.

A Beautiful Tea Gown.

There has been a great competition in tea-gown designs over in London, which will interest the ladies. For after attending a Browning club and political economy league in the morning, two or three teas and the society for the suppression of vanity in dress among the Hottentots in the afternoon, how perfectly delicious it is to reach at last the safe refuge of the soft and soothing tea gown, and to know that, besides being comfortable, one is a vision of beauty as well. Among those designed, which combine originality with comfort, is a gown of primrose yellow cashmere or challie. It is a modification of the Greek idea, being loosely girdled about the hips with gold passementerie, and girdled again, just below the bust. The yoke is of white lace, and the close sleeves are also of the white lace over yellow satin. The outer sleeves are of the wool, edged with brown fur to match the band at the bottom of the skirt. The most enthusiastic upholder of the tea gown must admit that in the old models, with loosely flowing front, "custom has staled its infinite variety." Really, the negligee front is not essential to comfort, and the new gowns are distinguished by being almost invariably girdled either at the bust, the waist, or about the hips. Another pretty gown is of pale gray peau de soie, lined with blue and embroidered down its edges with cigar-colored velvet set above an edge of fur. The underdress is of embroidered chiffon in blue, and the outer Russian sleeves are of the blue, striped with bands of brown velvet, while the undersleeves close to the wrist are of gray, also edged with velvet. A broad belt of brown, with a rosette, confines the underdress. The back is the simplest form of the princess in both gowns, with a Watteau plait hanging over to flow into the train.

The Wedding Ring.

How many people know why the wedding ring is worn on the third finger of the left hand? Well, this is the real reason. The third finger of the left hand was chosen by the Egyptians because that finger was believed to be directly connected by a slender nerve to the heart itself. The ancient worshippers of Isis held this finger sacred to Apollo and the sun, and therefore gold was chosen as material for the ring.

Evening Gown.

This evening gown for a young lady is of white chiffon muslin figured in pink, and mounted over pink satin. The skirt is four inches longer at the back than at the front, and is gored, being composed of front, side, and back breadths, with a width of three yards and a third around the bottom. It is mounted on a satin skirt of the same



length and the same width around the bottom, but gored more closely at the top than the chiffon skirt, and is trimmed around the bottom with a box-pleated ruche of pink crepe, set on in curves, and twined with pink ribbon which is caught down at intervals with knots of the ribbon. The skirt is joined to the lower edge of the round bodice, which is made very full, with crossed front draperies and a pleated back, and puffed elbow sleeves with a ribbon band and bow. The pointed corset is formed of bands of pink satin ribbon, finished with a bow at the back.

The Blouse Waist.

The blouse waist in plaid or fine stripe silk, or in black and self colors, will be popular for the coming season. A natty little blouse in red or blue silk that is not very much trimmed, brightens up an afternoon toilet wonderfully. It is really an economical fashion, as it gives two waists to a dress and need never be neglected. A yoke of lace or guipure net with deep lace cuffs make it dressy enough for evening wear at the theater. Some of the new blouse waists are made with a turn-over collar of the silk to admit of the immense bow at the throat which is now an extravagance of the day. One in pale Nile green silk with white silk bow of immense proportions that it projected to the shoulders on either side was very nobby on its blonde wearer. A quieter style was a cherry-red silk blouse with black lace collar and cuffs and a great bow of black surah silk, the ends of which were fastened down with silver true love knots.

In gold rings, chased beads, usually with small incised border, are intended for children. These usually have a plain disk on top for the initial. Comedy and tragedy appear to be favorite designs in stick pins. Sometimes they are represented by two hooks in pink shell, and again by a single laughing face pierced by a gold dagger

OLCOTT AND JUDGE.

The Former Head of the Theosophists and His Successor. [Special Correspondence.] New York, March 3.—Colonel Henry Steele Olcott, who has just resigned the presidency of the Theosophical society on account of a condition of health which forbids his traveling and speaking in public as he has done for many years, is an old New Yorker. New Yorkers, however, have pretty well forgotten the very honorable record he made for himself during the civil war by his service in the war department under the great war secretary, Stanton. He is now only remembered by reason of his identification with the society the leadership of which he resigns.



HENRY STEELE OLCOTT.

In his letter of resignation, which he sent from India in January, he announces that he will, from this time on, devote himself to literary work which is to be in aid of the society. The nature of this work is readily to be imagined by reading the announcement made by The Theosophist, a magazine published in India and circulated all over the world. It begins in the March number a series of articles by Colonel Olcott, entitled "Old Diary Leaves," which are reminiscences of the origin and vicissitudes of the Theosophical society, and personal anecdotes and recollections of Mme. Blavatsky, her phenomena and her friends.

Colonel Olcott's resignation, which has been accepted, leaves the vice president, Mr. William Q. Judge, in charge of his office, and also leaves open the question of who his successor will be. The leadership of opinion in this curious organization is by no means a prerogative of the presidency, and while there are various opinions as to who will be the leader, only one name has been really seriously considered for the presidency. It is altogether probable that Mr. Judge, who has been the virtual head of the organization in this country ever since Mme. Blavatsky's departure, will be the next president.

There is, however, a formal election necessary as a matter of course, and that has been arranged for. It will take place at the annual convention of the American section of the Theosophical society, which is to be held at the Palmer



WILLIAM Q. JUDGE.

House, in Chicago, on the 24th and 25th of April. Already notices have been sent out to the various branches of the order all over the country requesting them to take action in the matter by designating the person for whom they desire to vote. Equally, as a matter of course, it is impossible to predict what the various branches may do, and it is possible that the question of choosing a new president may be one that will occasion discussion and heartburnings. There is, however, no real reason to doubt that Mr. Judge will be the choice of a substantial majority of the society.

Senator Palmer's Memory.

Senator John M. Palmer is known personally to all the people in central Illinois, and it is rare that he is accosted by a young man or woman that he cannot say: "I know your father. He is So-and-so, and used to live on the Smith farm near Edwardsville," or whatever the name and place chanced to be. Like Secretary Blaine, he has a fondness for tracing out kin and pedigree, and his memory, even at seventy-five, is probably more comprehensive and accurate than Mr. Blaine's ever was. He remembers not only the old names and faces, as is the case with many men of advanced age, but among the thousands of new acquaintances in Washington one is rarely forgotten. Occasionally he meets persons he has not seen for forty years, and at once calls them by their right names.

Henry C. Bowen.

Colonel Henry C. Bowen, of the New York Independent, the famous light of the Beecher trial, is now past eighty years. He divides his time between his townhouse in New York and his beautiful country seat at Woodstock, Conn. When in the city and health or weather permit he visits The Independent office daily. He has three sons, one of whom is identified with the paper. Another son, Clarence Bowen, is prominent in all local affairs, having done much to promote the success of the Washington centennial a few years ago and to interest New Yorkers in the World's fair.

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