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NOVEL BALL GOWNS.

PICTURESQUE FLORAL COSTUMES WORN BY YOUNG GIRLS.

An Innovation That Pleases New York Society—The New Summer Fabrics Described—Dainty French Gingham—How the Summer Dresses Will Be Made.

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ON THE occasion of a recent dinner and ball the three young daughters of the house and three of their girl friends retired from the ball-room for a few minutes and returned in short dresses made of tulle woven with gold braid in basket fashion sewn upon them. The corsages were masses of flowers, and each had a handle made of basket work fastened so as to frame the pretty face like the handle of a basket. One had lilies of the valley only, another violets, one roses, and so on through all the spring blossoms, and they went through with a pretty little dance that had been devised for them by their dancing teacher.

Then they flashed out again, and when they returned they wore the regulation dancing dresses of flimsy white, floating pink, ethereal blue, or the tender green of springtime, and went on with their dancing as if nothing unusual had happened, but the innovation was unexpected and gave the guests something to talk about.

At the Germans this season the favors have been very odd and curious rather than costly, and the wise hostess tries to think of something that nobody has ever had before. One of the wealthiest ladies in the city had whole families of those stuffed tabby cats that are sold for ten cents apiece for favors, and each had a long ribbon tied around its neck so that it could be carried, and the object was for each one to see how many he or she could carry at once. One young lady had three hung around her neck.

As an offset the dinner favors consisted of large orchids of flagstone silver, each holding the menu rolled up and stood in the center of a bunch of violets, which had their stems in the lip of the orchid. The new summer fabrics are all bought and now being made up as rapidly as possible, and some of them are perfectly elegant and quite as dressy as silks. The care exercised in making up the summer gowns, though they are of inexpensive material, is as great as if it were cloth of gold. Every one fits as though molded, and every stitch is as fine and neat as fingers can sew them, and, by the way, they are nearly all made by hand. It is one of the tests—hand or machine work—and of course the one that costs the most labor is the best.

There is a very nobby stuff called Priscilla homespun. It is very ugly, but stylish, and is being largely worn for run about frocks, and there is a changeable chevrot which makes up into a handsome dress, and for every day in early spring there is cashmere, with serge and satiny stripes; fancy pinhead checks; camel's hair, with fancy weaves and satin stripes, and several effects of silk and wool weave.

There are for handsomer gowns, for calling, carriage, reception and other occasions which require more elaborate toilet pattern, dresses of rich broadcloth, and this now comes already shrunken, and there are lighter ladies' cloths, some of them having stripes of camel's hair on the surface. This is sometimes seen in gray, with soft creamy white lines over it, and it makes lovely dresses.

But the lace French gingham and the tinsel plaid gingham, the satin plaid and stripe goods of the same class, the novelty stripe, the embroidered stripe, the Roman stripe, the broche figured, the Byzantine stripe zephyrs, the grena-



NEW CHAMBRAY AND GINGHAM GOWNS. dine stripe and the half silk gingham make up a line of those goods never before seen, and they make up the very daintiest and most fetching of summer gowns. The colors are all well chosen and well blended.

Among the gingham novelties I find on referring to my notes that there are also raised hair line stripes and Scotch crinkle gingham, as well as patterns where there is a flounce or neck ruffle and sash all embroidered in contrasting color, and I remember one exquisite French crape gingham in shell pink, with a delicate embroidery in old rose and brown.

This does not by any means exhaust the list of lovely fabrics for summer gowns, but I want to say a few words as to how these dresses are made—that is to say, the chambray gingham. One home dress was made of light golden brown, with a light outline pattern in black silk chain stitch. It was princess shape and open in front over a slate colored chambray panel, which was in turn worked with brown and light gray.

The sleeves were of this latter. This gown was for a young married lady who could pile dollars up to the moon if she wished.

Another new gingham was in pinhead checks of salmon and maize, and in the front was an embroidery of brown and black. The dress was princess in the back and fell loosely from the bust line. There was a short jacket, scarce more than a yoke of gray chambray, embroidered and bordered with narrow white braid, and in each vandyke was a flat linen button. The sleeves were quite as elaborate as if the dress was of silk that cost three dollars a yard instead of gingham at forty cents, which is the price of the finest qualities.

Among some of the new summer gowns there are several designs in turkey rods, and these will have flat lace flounces, either black or ecru. HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU. New York.

A SMART WOMAN.

She Can Teach School, Talk Politics and Lecture on Twenty Topics.

Kearney, Neb., boasts of a genius in the person of Miss Mary A. Ripley, who can talk on more topics than any other woman in the United States. And she can talk interestingly on every one of them too. She is, to use the phrase of a down east woman who heard her lecture, "an awful smart woman."

Miss Ripley was for many years a teacher in the Buffalo high school. Her summers only are spent at Kearney. As soon as the lecture season begins she packs her satchel and starts out to tour it, all over the country—from Portland, Or., to Portland, Me., and from St. Augustine to Montreal.



MARY A. RIPLEY.

Her new lecture on "Columbus" is a very interesting one and gives hints on discovery which those who are making arctic expeditions would do well to heed. Among Miss Ripley's multitude of lecture topics there are talks upon the "Venus of Milo," "Herodity," "Household Service" and "Scientific Temperance."

As soon as the lecturer begins to speak she captivates her audience, for she is eloquent to a degree. Her finely formed head and wealth of short hair add weight and impressiveness to her words. AUGUSTA PRESCOTT.

HOUSEWORK SIMPLIFIED.

The Methods of a Woman Who "Does Her Own Work."

In this country servants are so uncertain and so poor that any guide from one who "does her own work" successfully cannot fail to be of interest to many women. The person in question says in response to questioning as to her methods, which seem perfection:

I determined at the start upon two things: One was that my home should be as daintily nice as ever, so that neither children nor parents should relax into careless habits. The second was that I must husband my strength in all possible ways. I would not have believed how many steps could be saved nor how much unnecessary work I was in the habit of doing until I tried to be careful and to remember. We were thinking, when our maid of all work went away, of moving. The new house was much more desirable in several ways than the old one, but it had a basement kitchen, and I refused that. No woman who can help it should have a flight of stairs between herself and her work.

Then I had a corner cupboard set up in the dining room and filled it with the best china, which had been kept before this in a part of the way closet. Now it was all at hand at a moment's notice. I even filled the kitchen salt cellar with mixed pepper and salt and bought one or two cheap napkin rings, so that there should be no hesitation in setting the table from having several nearly alike. I only give these as instances of my scrupulous care. There were many others like them.

I used a good deal of fruit instead of made desserts, and when I did bake pies or boil puddings I had a sufficient quantity to reheat for another day. Fortunately for us housekeepers almost everything eatable can be purchased in cans, and I always have a closetful on hand ready to "fall back on." I early abandoned my old fashioned idea of having everything that the market affords put upon the table at once. Instead of that, I make the variety from day to day, and find the result infinitely easier for me and more agreeable to my family. Several times a week I have soup, or sometimes a bit of fish or salad, or an entree besides the meat, with potatoes and one other kind of vegetables; never more than one kind, but that changed so from dinner to dinner that I do not hear the old cry any more, "I am so tired of this or that!"

One of my little daughters has been trained to change the plates; the other helps me greatly about the house. All the children have learned to do their share of the work. One of them dusts after my sweeping and another "brushes up" the halls and stairs. I believe that is the hardest thing of all to learn—how to make others help. I have acquired it because I confidently believe I have acquired most of the art of simplifying housework. RUTH HALL.

WOMAN'S WORLD IN PARAGRAPHS.

The Dairy Business as an Occupation for Women.

That lively and aggressive state, Indiana, furnishes many shining examples of successful business women. In the older states the dairy industry on a large scale has now drifted mostly into the hands of men and stock companies. But in Indiana we have several signal examples of what women can do not only in dairying, but also in the rearing of beef cattle. Mrs. Meredith's herd of Shorthorns in southeastern Indiana is one of the noblest in the country. Mrs. Laura D. Worley, of Ellettsville, is so successful a breeder of butter Jerseys and so successful a butter maker besides that it was at one time proposed by some gallant western men to make her chief of the live stock department of the World's fair. As a matter of fact, she was appointed one of the jurors of award on dairy products. She sells gilt edged butter directly to consumers, without any middleman, and is adding to her bank account year by year. Another progressive Indiana dairy woman is Mrs. Mary C. Alexander, who read a paper before the Indiana State Dairy association on "Dairying as a Successful Occupation for Women." Mrs. Alexander began dairying first with one cow and the most primitive appliances. She took up the butter making branch of the work. Now she has many cows, a "brick milkhouse with modern conveniences" and a warm barn for her cows. It is interesting to know that her own fine, strong armed daughters do the milking, and they have not found it too hard work for a woman. Mrs. Alexander believes there is something in a woman's gentle touch with a cow and in a woman's nice sense of cleanliness and her keen sight, smell and taste that particularly adapts her to successful dairying. Mrs. Alexander is quite right. She is at present enlarging her own facilities and going into the business on a larger scale. There is not the drudgery attached to butter making and the care of milk that there used to be. Calf and dog power can be utilized with the new style of churn, and the cream separator or the creamer relieves a woman of the care of a large number of heavy milk pans. As to pet animals, there is nothing one can become more attached to than to a herd of beautiful cows.

Rev. Florence Kollock, who went to Europe last summer, is studying Assyrian archeology and Egyptology in the British museum. She will undoubtedly come on the fact in the course of her investigations that in the most ancient times in Egypt women had such rights and such a commanding power and influence as they have never enjoyed in any country, civilized or uncivilized, since. How they lost their power is a long story and most interesting one. In brief, they lost much of it through their own fault. They must struggle till they get it back, and that is the task now before women.

Much of women's trouble comes to them because of a sort of intellectual laziness. It is easier to trust a man—anybody, father, brother or husband—to transact business, easier to let men run city government and easier to let ministers make church rules, even if those rules relegate women to a shamefully subordinate position, than to rouse up and find out things and act for themselves. Women of this kind have no right to whine when men cheat them out of all their property, when their sons and daughters are ruined because of bad city government and public vice, or when pompous doctors of divinity insult them by preaching at them the propriety of ignorance and subjection for the Christian woman. Women have the remedy for every one of these evils in their own hands.

In the series of scathing papers about American schools which Dr. J. M. Rice has been contributing to The Forum there is one city whose primary system merits his unqualified approval. That city is Indianapolis. He finds that here the true idea of education is comprehended and put into operation with shining results. It is with modest pride I record the fact that this is owing to a woman, Miss Crosby, assistant superintendent of the Indianapolis public schools. Miss Crosby has long been connected with the Indianapolis schools. She did not consider that if she worked just as the principal told her to do and then drew her monthly wage that her duty was done and herself cleared of responsibility until some man came along and married her. Miss Crosby thought over her work and studied the child nature. What books on education could teach her she learned besides. In the course of years she evolved a noble system of primary education of her own and was fortunate enough to have her work appreciated by the school board.

Some distressful souls are again in fear lest women try to make men of themselves. There is no danger. The average masculine animal is not such a howling success that women should want to imitate him.

Maine needs some attention, judging from a letter in The Woman's Journal. In that state a dead father has more control over a child than a living mother, and it is, moreover, lawful for a man to leave his wife a pauper at his death. Nevertheless in his last message the governor devoted a third of his space to the protection of game and said never a word about the protection of women.

It was a newspaper woman, after all, that brilliant and industrious girl, Lida Rose McCabe, who was the means of opening to women the post graduate course in moral philosophy at St. Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic college in New York city.

Advice of The Review of Reviews to women, "The best way for women to enter politics is not to keep up agitation for woman suffrage, but to take a lively hand in the political battle as it actually wages." This is what English women are doing. ELIZA ARCHARD CONNER.

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