

WOMEN'S DOMAIN.

SLEEVES AND SKIRTS.

Some Radical Changes Shown in the Spring Styles.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—If the present tendencies of modes may be regarded as indications of what the future will bring forth, then spring sleeves will run to actual smallness and skirts be wider than ever.

A tea gown sleeve named for Miss Olga Netherese, the English actress, wrinkles over the arms like a loose glove and is so long that it covers the hand to the knuckles.

At the outside seam of this a full lace or plaited chiffon is inserted in tang and flutter like the fringe of an Indian's leggings.

The skirt portion is bell shaped, which is a capital arrangement for discussing a too thin hand, and the floating lace at the outside seam takes away from the severity of the dress's snugness.

But speaking of actresses, it is really to their influence we owe the reform now shown

in scattered instances and that threatens soon to sway all sleeves.

The evening gown at present being worn at the best theaters have, in the majority of cases, short puff sleeves, models I affirm those worn during the director's period, and not a great deal larger.

MISS NEILSON'S SLEEVES.

In "The Notorious Mrs. Ebbelwhite," Miss Neilson wears a pair of sleeves that may be said to have made the hit of the piece.

They form part of a black spangled gauze gown, such a stage always associates with wickedness, and are a revelation as to what simple draping may do for a beautiful arm.

The bodies of this gown is very décolleté back and front and is kept on the shoulders by a narrow spangled band.

Another similar to it encircles the bare arm just below the elbow like a bracelet and through this underneath, goes a long scarf of the spangled gauze, looping loosely between the neck and the armhole, where it is sewed in, and hanging from the elbow in a long flowing end.

The effect is bizarre, of course, but in Miss Neilson's case it is extremely becoming.

Again, a French chanteuse, who lately enraptured and astonished New York, wore no sleeves at all, and then, also, a charming arm got the benefit of the evening gown.

A few of the newest evening gowns shown by the smart dressmakers are also without sleeves, a graceful little fall of lace or artificial flowers at the shoulder taking their place.

Even where there are sleeves there is an evident desire to show as much of a pretty arm as possible.

To accomplish this the bodice is often made very low at the shoulders, or is held on only with a strap, the short puff sleeve hanging away below on the arm.

DECORATIVE SLEEVES.

A charming short sleeve recently worn by Mrs. John Jacob Astor at the opera had the upper inside of the puff cut away in a big horizontal slit to show a very white and pretty arm, indeed.

changing greens and purples. The new material was the moiré tulle, which was made of the serge, slashed openings being made in the lower portion to show an underseve of the brocade.

Approves. This model sleeve there was a very dainty little pin worn with the bodice that is just now the thing with up-to-date models and smart young matrons.

These charming little brooches make a very stylish finish to the throat of a bodice, and, compared to other ornaments now being worn, their expense is a mere trifle.

HER AMERICAN SISTERS.

Yvette Gulber's Opinion of the Women of This Country.

On the eve of her departure for Paris I had a chat with that fascinating queen of music, that singer, Yvette Gulber, who, with charming unpretentiousness, gave me some views she has formed of American women during her stay here.

A thorough woman herself and a Parisian, Mlle. Gulber has taken full advantage of her opportunities to study her American sisters and note wherein, to her notion, they differ from the women of the French capital.

Her criticisms, wanting only to be understood, bear witness to her alertness of mind and keenness of observation and merit consideration.

"You must know, monsieur, that I have traveled through Europe, but not anywhere have I found women who resemble our women of Paris so much as do those I have had the honor of meeting in New York and Boston.

Not Spanish women, nor Russian, nor Italian, nor English—oh, mon dieu, certainly not the French! The American women seem to me of likeness to the Parisian women as the ones I see on Fifth avenue and Broadway.

"You see, I do not admire English women very much, but I do like them very well. They have lovely complexions and soft, low voices. Perhaps in those respects they have the advantage of either French or American women, but they cannot dress; dear me, the poor things cannot dress. And the funny part of it is that just now there is quite a number of English ladies who are taking French ladies find nothing so chic as to wear London-made gowns, and the swellest houses in Paris abound in furniture designed for the English. Oh, how the English love to make beautiful furniture. All the English ladies seem to me to be taking things a l'Anglaise, I suppose, only a caprice that will pass away, but we have in Paris a more permanent taste.

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"In Boston I was amazed at the ease with which the English ladies are able to make money to learn foreign languages. That is a pity; don't you think so?"

"Do you think, then, madame, that the New York and Boston ladies who have seen you at the theater understood all the words of your songs?"

Yvette laughed mischievously. "I think a great many of them did; but then you see they had the advantage when I came to the shocking parts of being able to sing what they did not understand. Is it not so?"

FINE LINGERIE.

This led us into a little diversion on national hypocrisy and incidentally caused Yvette to give her views on ladies' underwear.

"A lady came to see me the other day," she said, "quite a wealthy lady, too, and she expressed astonishment to me when I showed her some of my undergarments which, because they were made pretty with ribbons and laces, as French women always wear them."

"How much did this cost?" she asked, peering up an undershirt.

"Oh, about 500 francs," I said, and went on to explain that even the poorest women and girls in Paris take pride in spending their money on their undergarments.

I told her that a Parisian girl would find it almost impossible to wear simple gowns that cost perhaps sixty francs over an undershirt and chemise that may cost ten times as much.

"What a queer idea!" said the lady.

"Don't you do that way?" I asked her. "We think that in dressing ourselves it is proper to give the world to see that our garments are the place of honor, even though they are not seen."

beauty, can be acquired by any girl who will dress in the most becoming striped gowns. If you want to walk well, hold yourself erect, don't throw your shoulders back, though you may be tempted to do so by the piece of erroneous advice. Just keep them in a natural position. Don't put your toes down first, like a dancing master, but try to make both heel and ball of the foot touch the ground at once. Hold your body firm, your head up, your chin in, and walk a great deal with these things in mind.

PROMOTING FAMILIES.

Significant Features of the French Income Tax Law.

Harold Frederic cables to the New York Times that the first genuine test of the stability of the Bourgeois ministry in France will come on the income tax proposal in the annual budget.

The scheme differs in a remarkable way from all previous attempts to apply a graduated scale to income taxation in that it separates into different classes each individual income.

Thus, a man with \$15,000 a year pays 5 per cent on \$5,000, 4 per cent on \$10,000, 1 per cent on \$500 and the remaining sum of \$500 is to be exempt.

The extraordinary complication is added to the intricacy of a system by which deductions are to be made on account of the number of children a man has, which, in the case of a large family, might wipe out half of his taxation.

This putting of a premium on population is only too excusable in France, where people look forward with positive dread to the results of the quinquennial census in the coming spring, but it makes the budget even more difficult to digest.

Their campaign is to be based broadly on the fact that the proposed change, by its concurrent abolition of the house tax, will relieve all taxation of 500,000 present taxpayers, reduce the taxes now collected from another million and put on the shoulders of

dress fabrics, this material showing a broken Bedford cord of irregular pattern.

The finer illustrations in the "Black Cat" are made by the wife of the editor, Mrs. Littlehale Umbaister. She and her husband have a charming home in the Back Bay quarter of Boston.

Mrs. Phineas M. Barber of Philadelphia is about to erect and equip at a cost of about \$40,000 a seminary for girls at Barnard, Ala. and have it in the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen.

Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson will hereafter live in San Francisco, her former home. She was gone by her son and daughter, for a brief visit to Samoa, in order to arrange the affairs of the deceased novelist.

The first American novel was written in 1759, and its author was woman, Mrs. Sarah Wentworth Morton, whose pseudonym was "Philia." This novel was in two volumes, and was called "The Power of Sympathy; or, the Triumph of Nature."

Miss Marguerite Merrington has just finished the libretto for a comic opera, the score of which has been composed by Mr. Arthur Bird. Miss Merrington's play, "Capt. Letterblair," has been most successful, and is marked by a sense of humor rare in women's writing.

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Mrs. McKinley, wife of Ohio's ex-governor and the possible future mistress of the white house, has a prettily marked mole on her forehead, which she has had for many years.

The empress of Russia has caused to be built a magnificent swimming bath at the Winter palace; it covers an area of some 1,400 square feet, is six feet deep, and is built of white marble. The young empress herself has had a great many alterations made at the palace, which are said to have entailed an expenditure of several million roubles.

Mrs. Nellie Marshall Showalter of Kentucky, a charming society woman, has within the past few years won a most distinguished position in the chess field, which is supposed to be long peculiarly to men.

Miss Frances Power Cobbe was the first woman regularly employed on the staff of a London daily. Her long career of literary and journalistic activity began forty years ago with this pioneer work in London, the foundation of her later success.

Miss Fannie Ledesdorf of San Francisco is longer breads downpour of rain and drifts of snow. She has adopted a dress which she considers perfect for the braving of storm.

Bloomers are of its most conspicuous feature. They are of navy blue cloth and fall well between the knees where they are met by leggings of the same shade.

The rest of the costume consists of a black jacket, a black velvet hat, and a black serge skirt lined with moiree, but not stiffened with it. Miss Ledesdorf throws it over her arm when walking and drops it when in stores. In the former position the hem of it does not reach the knees.

Among the elegant costumes worn at a church wedding recently was one of nun-like gray Venetian lace, with trimmings of black and white satin on the upper edge and made to button on to the waist back and front. Over this is a narrow black satin tie belt around the neck like a cravat.

The new printed velveteens are of exquisite designs and coloring, and rival the richest products of the Lyons looms in finish and effect. They come in Persian and flower patterns, which will be contrasted in April, furnishing a partly worn gown. Entire bodices are made of them, and they are both excellent in effect and in price.

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The fineness of the most fashionable sleeve begins quite below the shoulder, which is well defined under a Vandyke trimming of jet, lace, or closely set runnings, unless the bodice is particularly decided for the season and fancy rough straws in a great variety of colors are to be worn.

These are mixed with soft effect, in decided contrast or plain, and are especially on elegant trimmings. The brims are gracefully fluted and the crowns are pointed, with plaits at top, low and square, bell shape, or normally round. The skirt of the tricorne hat is commensurate as especially suited to the new mode of trimming.

Embroidery is still a mark of exclusive elegance, particularly in special designs directly on the bodice, sleeve or skirt. The Cairo gold embroideries, which are warranted not to fade, are especially on elegant trimmings.

Some are gold alone, others are jeweled and spangled. They are sold in sets, including vest, standing collar, flaring cuffs, the skirt, and a wide trimming, sleeve caps and revers. Gold embroidery is also wrought on tan, silver, gray, fawn, black and green cloth.

To insure the perfect hang of the skirt it is still necessary to wear either a more or petticoat beneath the silk lined dress or to line it, at least at the lower portion, with genuine horse hair cloth to give the requisite support without stiffness, which is otherwise unobtainable.

These linings are very pliable and comparatively light, protecting the silk lining as well as the dress bodice. It is a success only when made by a professional. Some of the newest modes are trimmed, but as many, and more, are not.

Feminine Notes.

Poet Lore is edited and published by two women, Miss Clarke and Miss Porter.

The Gross Prince's Stagnation of Austria is a mountain climber, a talented artist, and shows more or less skill in writing.

The little town of Manellus, Mich., has two women on the school board, a woman undertaker and a woman barber.

Miss Agnes Zimmerman has completed the edition of Schumann's pianoforte works, upon which she has been engaged for the last several years.

Mary A. Wisby, who was a schoolgirl of 16, was written when she was a schoolgirl of 16. This was in 1857.

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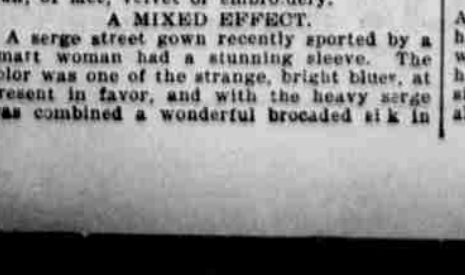
FOR A MATRON.



FINE AND CORRECT.



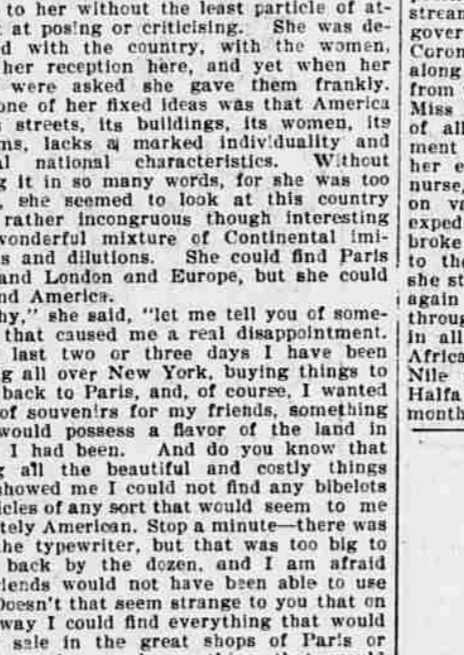
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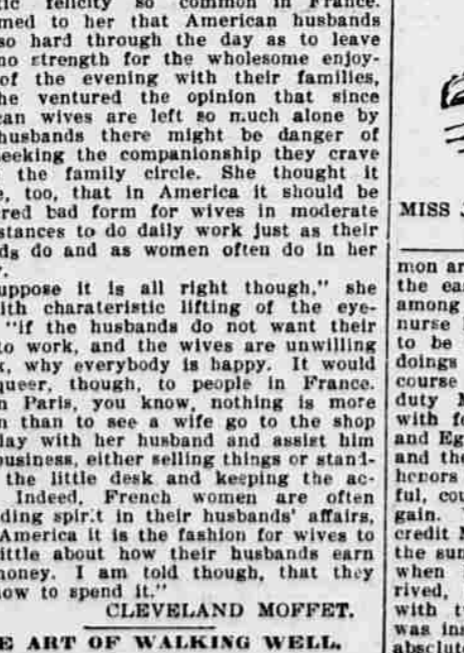
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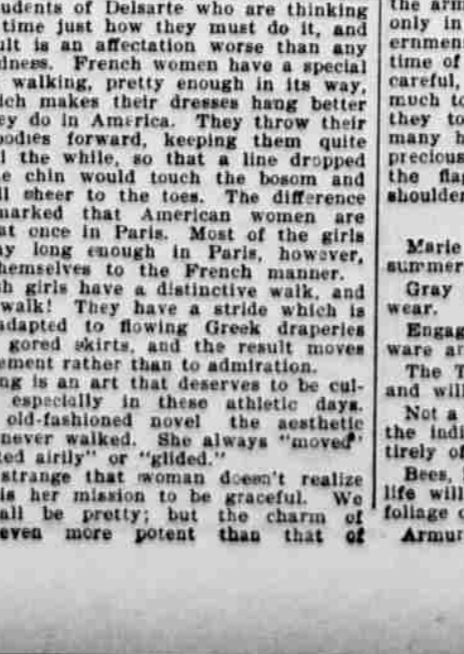
SOME FRENCH SLEEVES.



MISS J. A. GRAY, CHIEF OF THE NURSING STAFF.



THE ART OF WALKING WELL.



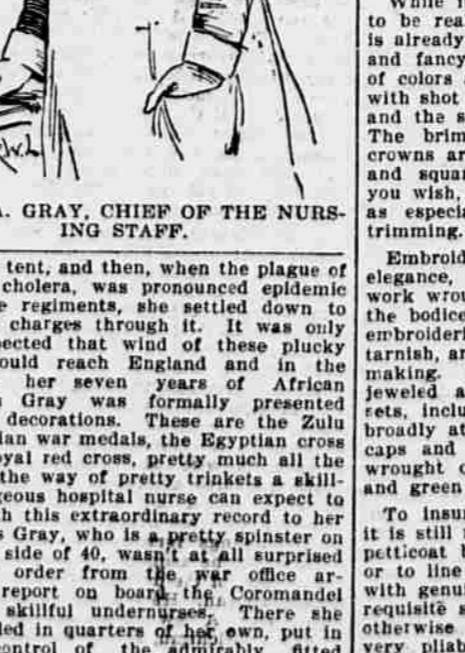
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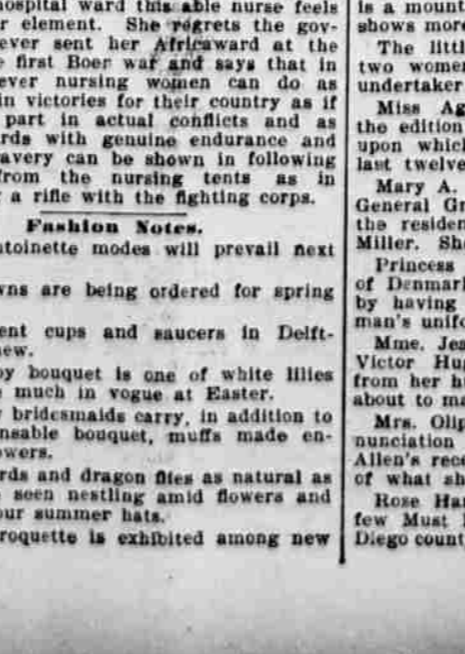
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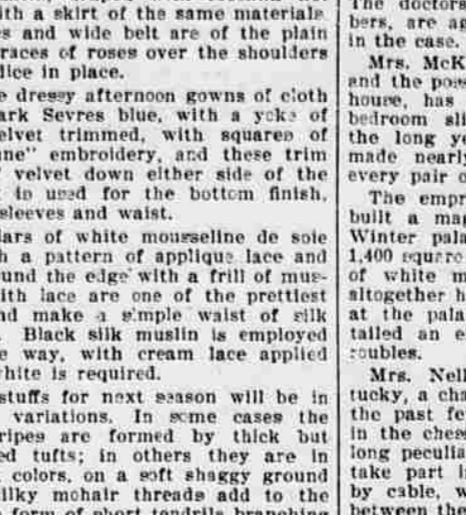
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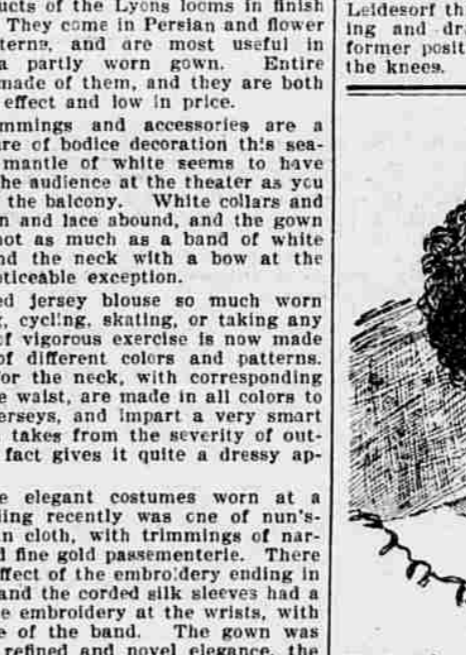
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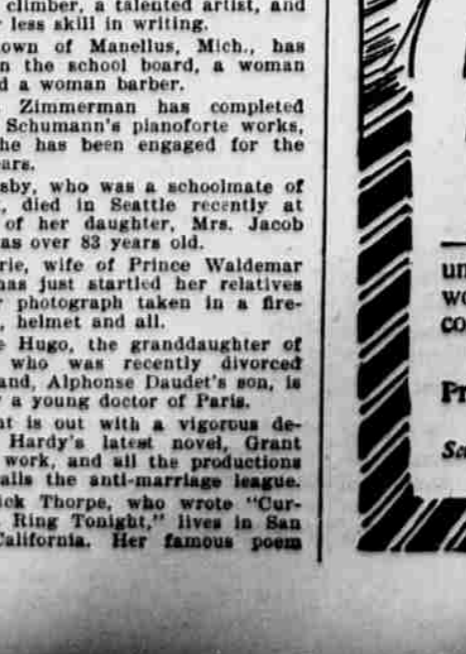
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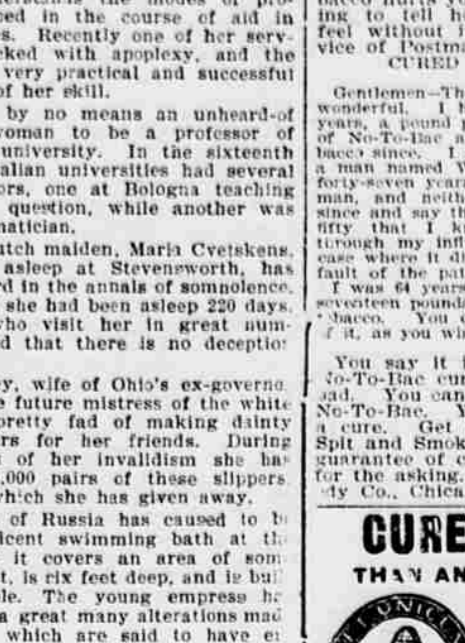
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