

WOMEN'S DOMAIN.

LENTEN COSTUMES. Spring Suggestions and Toilets to Be Worn During February. NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The gowns at present being made up and which will make their first appearance during Lenten week are a compromise between winter and spring, suitable to the demi-season.

Much French broadcloth is used, in rich browns, blues, greens and violets, with here and there a costume in the superb "eminent" purple, so becoming to women of the red type. Trimmings for these run chiefly to bodice decorations of white satin, spangled in jet or gold, or embroidered in elaborate threads, introducing silk figures in Persian colors, or in the tone of the gown. White dresses of kid, worn with colored silk and shaped into vests, revers, collars and cuffs, is seen on a few of the handsomer gowns.

One splendid costume of "eminent" cloth, just imported by one of our smartest dressmakers, had bands of the white kid running loosely over a blouse bodice of violet chiffon. The chiffon was accordion plaited, and the kid bands were left plain at the center, and outlined with a jet thread inclosing a narrow vine of purple violets.

The effect was very charming, and the lucky purchaser of this fine risk would have the satisfaction of knowing that a newer thing could not be found in New York.

TUCKED SKIRTS. For the skirts of the cloth gowns there is an arrangement of big tucks that is effective and easily managed. The tucks are three inches deep and three in number, but the front and back breadths of the skirt alone show them. A novel point is that no stitching appears at the outside of these tucks. The folds are pressed and drawn underneath, which gives to the loose surface a look of elegant simplicity.

A skirt of light unforged wool, or one of soft silk, so tucked, is agreeable change after so many plain jupes, but if made of cloth, the material, of course, needs to be of a very light quality to admit of the extra weight.

Gowns of cloth or silk that have begun to show winter service are being rejuvenated

with smart little basque bodices of brocade silk. The basques are rippled, or in flat coat tails, and there is commonly a vest of chiffon or white satin and maybe revers of the same.

At the waist, in nine cases out of ten, a narrow belt of gilt or silver braids that fastens in front with a miniature buckle becomes the brocade bodice becomingly. Again the belt will be of jet and the revers of black satin, outlined or barred at the top with rows of jet. But whatever the material of the bodice, whatever the color, white satin stocks reign supreme as the quality for the neck that are charming. There are in one or two full flounces and a great round bow in four loops and two

ends, which is so huge that it hides quite half of the head. SPRING WRAPS. Fur wraps, of course, cannot yet be entirely discarded, but gowns are dropping their skin trimmings as if by magic, and there is a very spring-like look about some of the new mantles.

In some instances, and there are some very full affairs of black or colored velvet, with pale silk linings and fluffy chiffon shirtings about the neck that are charming. There are in one or two full flounces and in all cases the chiffon is black, with some-

times small black ostrich feathers falling softly over the big neck ruche. The collars are shaped much like the chinchilla collars worn during the winter.

One of the high collars of this kind, however, the black chiffon ruche tops, the velvet shirring with adorable becomingness, and there may be an upper collar of plissé or of light-colored ruffles, with sides of the front and floating stole ends.

All of these new shoulder trappings are delightful, and the woman must be plain whose looks would not be enhanced by one.

For frocks that have passed the flower of youth they are gracious aids to softness, to smooth out the lines in tired faces. On certain pale dark types, red mouthed and subtle gray, they are coquettish to a degree.

It is useless to talk of spring coats as a fixed family, even as late as this, for one never knows what women are going to wear. The shops have bloomed out in smart light coats lately, loose and light fitting, and many of them reaching barely below the hips.

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assumed names we can almost always discover it. They ask for the letter hurriedly, and when they receive it crumple it up in their hands and glance fearfully around to see if anyone has noted the address.

"Sometimes we have glimpses into the tragedies of life. One day a young girl, a foreigner, called for a letter, and I handed her a black-edged one. She opened it in the hallway, then there was a scream and a fall—the girl had fainted. A little crowd gathered to help her, and presently she revived and walked unaided away with a white, drawn look on her young face. It gave me a headache now when I think of her. She never came back for more letters, so I suppose that black-edged letter told her of the sundering of the last tie which bound her to her native land."

"I have been in three fires in the postoffice—first the big fire; then, two years later, a large fire on Wabash avenue which burned the postoffice, then the Honors building on Dearborn street, where we were burned out again. We were all in the office when that fire came, and all stayed after the alarm of fire was given until we had the mail fastened up in packages ready to be taken away. When we came out of the building it was so great that I was knocked down and run over by a street car, and my leg was broken. I was laid up for three months, and that is the only time during my twenty-eight years' service that I have ever been absent from the office because of sickness."

"In the summer we are entitled to two

weeks' vacation, but we do not get it for many years until Mr. Hesing was appointed postmaster. Now we get it for four weeks. We will be glad to get into the new building and have daylight. Even the young clerks have to put on glasses after they work a little while here."

BARONESS ROTHSCHILD'S FARM. It Makes a Gay Impression Upon a Man Seeking a Wife. Baroness Adolphe de Rothschild may fairly claim to be a fin-de-siècle agriculturist. She keeps a farm at Boulogne-sur-Seine, just outside the Bois, and here during the summer it is her delight to initiate the weary votaries of fashion into the simple pleasures of rustic life.

The guests are welcomed in a Louis XV. drawing room, where the furniture is covered with satin brocade of the palest bluish pink hue, and all the knick-knacks and engravings are suggestive of the ancient regime. One of the walls, however, consists of a huge sheet of plate glass, giving views into the cowshed, if so mean a word is applicable to the superb apartment within which a double row of "milky mortars" browse peacefully at their marble manger.

A Breton herdman and his wife in natural costume tend the sleek cattle and make the picture complete. When aesthetic cravings have been satiated by this charming spectacle an adjournment takes place to the dining room, and a dainty lunch is served amid a bower of fragrant orchids.

Then follows a stroll through the gardens, laid out in Louis XV. style, with nymphs and fauns of stone gleaming through the foliage, and a lady there is a visit to the dairies. By this time it has become cool enough to venture on the homeward drive, and the carriages are brought around, but each lady, besides her passengers a load of dairy produce and a colossal bouquet of roses as souvenirs of the visit.

The visitor goes away with the feeling that farming, after all, is not such a bad trade if you have an income of a million or two to fall upon.

NEW HONORS FOR WOMEN. Sketch of the Secretary of the Senate. Mrs. Lillie R. Pardee of Salt Lake City, who has been recently elected to the secretaryship of the senate of the new state of Utah, was born in September, 1864.

Her maiden name was Lillie R. Moore.

of women to vote at the recent election Mrs. Pardee voluntarily withdrew her name from the ticket, in order not to endanger the interests of her party in the legislature.

The president of the senate in recommending Mrs. Pardee for secretary of the senate said: "I recommend Mrs. Pardee by reason of her fitness for the place. I consider her work in the committee rooms fully up to the standard of any man's."

In private life Mrs. Pardee is womanly and unassuming in manner. She is undoubtedly a career of brilliance and usefulness before her.

DIGESTIVE EXERCISES. Gymnastics that Will Cure the Most Obstinate Case of Dyspepsia. "I beg your pardon, my dear, but I took you for your younger sister. How charming you are looking. To what miracle do you owe your recovered health and beauty?"

"Oh, it is quite a long story. You remember how ill I was when you last saw me?"

"Yes, indeed, and altogether hopeless about ever being any better."

"Quite so, and I grew much worse after that. In fact, I suffered so grievously from indigestion that eating became a dreary penance, and all mundane things seemed a nuisance and a snare. One day, standing in a strong light, I beheld reflected from my mirror the face of an old woman. My skin was discolored and withered, and my whole face as deeply seamed with wrinkles as that of a woman of 65. This sight stung me into resolution. For two years I had been under the care of the best specialists, and here I stood at 20 years of age this hopeless wreck. Something must be done. I immediately set about making inquiries, which resulted in my casting medicines to the winds and entering upon a persistent course of sym-

nastics, from which I have never deviated for a single day, and can do my duty again. Now we are about at midnight with the best, and sleep the sleep of the just afterward."

"Do you mean to tell me that your cure was effected solely by gymnastics?"

"By gymnastics alone," she replied. "Do tell me what are the special motions which I must suffer agonies from indigestion at times."

"With the greatest pleasure. The chief aim of each movement is, of course, to excite the muscles of the stomach and abdomen. The ordinary calisthenics for the arms with which every one is familiar are the first exercises upon my program. Then—always standing upon the balls of the feet—extend the arms upward parallel with the head, and, keeping the knees perfectly stiff, bend the body back into an upright position. This should be done through with from fifteen to twenty times. You now extend the arms straight to the right and left, and, holding the right leg firm, bend the body toward the right until the fingers touch the floor, then back to position again, and do this four times. Go through the same exercise toward the left, and then alternate from right to left.

The next exercise upon the program is to lie flat upon the back with the arms parallel with the body; then raise the arms as slowly as possible, drawing in the breath and raising the head and shoulders, and, holding a complete semi-circle and are extended at full length upon the floor above the head; then very slowly move them back into position, and repeat this exercise four times. Go through the same exercise four times each separately, and then both together.

The most difficult and most difficult exercise of all. Still on your back, raise the legs very slowly, with the knees stiff and feet pointing outward, to a high position, get them and then let them drop as slowly as possible back into position, without bending the knees. This is a very severe exercise, and can be repeated no more than three times in succession with safety."

"And did you do nothing directly for your complexion?"

"Yes. Every day after washing it in very hot water, I rubbed it at least five minutes with a fresh brush, being careful to always pass the brush in the same direction, always in the direction of the ear. I followed this with a generous application of cold cream, gently rubbing it in, until it was quite absorbed."

"And do you never have even slight symptoms of the return of the old enemy?"

"Occasionally I do. But instead of taking any medicine, I take a brisk walk, do my usual gymnastic work and go through my exercises, and I have never failed to find immediate relief, so much, but tell me, how long does it take to go through these exercises?"

"About an hour; and if you know any one suffering from chronic indigestion, do not fail to recommend to them this most effective treatment. Sure cure and no pay."

THE DREXEL PIANO. A Costly Work of Art Completed for a Philadelphia Lady. Edwin H. Drexel, now at work upon the decorations of the new congressional library at Washington, has just finished painting a piano for Mrs. George W. Childs Drexel of Philadelphia that will compare favorably with the most distinguished pieces of artistic workmanship of modern times.

Indeed its only possible rivals in the field of piano decoration are the famous Alma Tadema, owned and decorated by himself, a chapeau of the late Mrs. B. B. Blackmore, and other superb instruments, recently designed by Alma Tadema for one of the foremost art lovers and connoisseurs of New York.

Mrs. Drexel's piano is a superb specimen of the art of the piano maker, and is entirely different lines from the New York piano, following as it does the purest style which Greek art has ever known, and which is the only one that has been preserved in the world. The general scheme of the ornamentation of this piano is based upon ebony, supplemented by soft grades of cedar, yellowish boxwood, brown oak, mother of pearl, coral, silver and other metal tracery, and the prevailing designs are of a structural nature from which radiate, in various directions, stems intertwining with acroll-like effects. It contains but one picture, which replaces the board above the keys. This is an exquisite composition by E. J. Taylor, R. A., director of the national gallery, London, representing music and dancing.

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