

IN THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN.

TIPS ON EASTER DRESSES.

Fabric and Velvet in Favor and Applique in Disfavor.
NEW YORK, March 2.—This is the ground for my suspicions of Mrs. Back Bay, began Mrs. Van Knickerbocker, striking the whipped cream into her hot chocolate and lifting the skirt of her brown walking dress over so slightly that a glimpse of her hot silk and black lace petticoat might not be lost upon her appreciative audience.

"All of you, I think, heard her dilate on the charms of a wonderful new blue gown she intends purchasing, and all of you, of course, know that it was only two years ago that she wore crepe for her heels for the admirable, incomparable late Back Bay."

"You don't mean to say," broke in Miss Chicagoese.

"Well, I mean to say," went on Mrs. Van Knickerbocker, "that only yesterday the widow came in to call and for the first time I appreciated that Mrs. Back Bay is a distinctly pretty woman, and what was even more to the point, exquisitely dressed. Her hair was charmingly powdered, her hat was a tope, one of the loveliest hazy-colored chiffon affairs in the shape of a coronet ribbed about the crown and edged on the brim with pipings of black tulle. Flaring up from the front of the crown stood a bow made of chiffon and straw and two loose bunches of violets held effective duty, one in the center of the unrolled crown and one snuggled artfully down in the region of the left ear. Upon this she had drawn a veil of the exceedingly fine black silk tulle that for dreary months she had proscribed of the coarser Russian nets and is ornamented not with big black disks at long intervals, but tiny lace circles set on to the net very far apart. The effect of the hat and the modish veil were undeniably bewitching."

"I was particularly enthusiastic over her Eton coat of pale tan cloth, clipping her pretty slim waist very close. Its perfect roundness was shown off to advantage by three unlined fitted capes spreading out upon her shoulders. The collar of this tempting novelty spring wraps was high, garing, lined with pinstriped chiffon and right under the chin two filmy scarfs of chiffon joined ends and then fluttered well below the waist line. Her gloves were suede, matching her coat perfectly, and one little hand was thrust into a muff of tan chiffon puffed and puckered into a foundation of cloth matching the coat and further enhanced by two bouquets of fresh violets. Two bouquets, my dear; what do you gather from that bit of evidence when the possessor of the bouquets goes suddenly into color and her cheeks wear a glow not altogether due to brisk walking or cold, spring winds?"

"Have you the least idea who he is?" asked the hostess.

"Well," answered the detective in brown, "I have my eye on one young man, and to think of poor, dear Back Bay, such a fine fellow to be so soon forgotten. What short memories some women have, and do you know she told me not six months ago, with a touching appeal for my aid, that the balance of her life would be devoted to writing his memoirs." A sigh for the shortcomings of Mrs. Back Bay went round the room and then the hostess spoke up, indignantly:

The Handkerchief House Waist.
 "Can any one tell me for what purpose all these big fringed silk handkerchiefs have been introduced that I see everywhere and what is going to be the quality of the new foulards?"

"Hark to me," replied the girl from Chicago, spreading a filmy bit of white cambrie on one knee and setting thence her crisp cheeks. "These handkerchiefs, those big fellows a foot and a half square, are intended for the beautification of smart spring theater and house waists. They are fringed and figured for use in combination with panne or taffeta of a solid tone and usually form a decorative collar, yoke, cuffs, etc., and the consequence is something to fill the heart of the beauty lover with joy. As to the foulards, the very highest satin finish you can get brings you nearest the same of aerial perfection. Big bold designs, large leaf patterns, broad stripes, and a variety of color and very daring contrasts characterize the foulards just now instead of polka dots and Dresden aprays."

"If I have read the augurs right," he continued, "there is sure to be a craze for clear apple green straight through the spring. My tailor assures me that it will be the perfection of taste for skirt linings and yesterday I apostrophized with all the admiring adjectives at my command a reception gown of apple green liberty satin relieved by decorations of French ribbon, black ribbon and black velvet. The whole costume was accented puffed and with a high black velvet collar, girle and no ends on the skirt it had for the moment no rivets in my sight."

Taffeta and Velvet.
 "My tailor, by the way, is a remarkable person for his practice so far as feminine trills are concerned and he tells me that taffeta and velvet are sure to be extensively used in Easter dressmaking. I was even accorded a glimpse of a bewitchingly lovely pale tan velvet walking dress for a famously rich belle—a coat and skirt to wear with a coral pink or a pastel blue skirt, and the velvet was trimmed with stitched straps of cloth of tan tone, while khaki brown lace faced the coat's revers."

"Another glimpse I had was of a dove gray velvet skirt and coat and snit strapped beautifully with black taffeta, and the coat was gorgeous with its buffons of mother-of-pearl, having each a cabochon emerald sunk into the polished pearl center of its course. I exclaimed at the extravagance of these gowns, but when I was told that the new velvet for tailor suits is especially woven to stand wear and weather without the least loss of luster or flattening of pile, I began to wonder if I might not invest in such a suit myself and find it a positive economy."

"It is all very well for you young, slim

creatures to talk of the coat and skirt suit," wailed Mrs. Van Knickerbocker. "The days for such comfortable dressing are done for me, so when I dropped in on my man the other day I resigned myself to a gown of extreme and, reaching every point of this too acid flesh, I selected a handsome variety of heliotrope cloth strapped with white taffeta and finished about the hem, collar, sleeves and revers with a very pretty feather garnishment, decorative as well as light as a feather plume, in a deeper tone of heliotrope than my suit itself. It cost almost without saying that I have a sash button, fastened at the back by two pearl buttons holding amethyst buleeyes and knotted in front with fringed ends falling below the knees."

"In all of which tasteful array you will outshine any one of the 'silk young things' no matter how smart her velvet suit may be," flatteringly insisted the girl from Chicago, as the protracted meeting round the table broke up its magic circle.

MARY DEAN.

HIGH GRADE LAUNDRY WORK.

Requires a Lifetime to Learn the
 The most important laundry workers in the world are the women employed in the silk conditioning houses. They wash, boil, bleach, rinse and dry, just as the women



SPRING JACKET OF VERY LIGHT TAN CLOTH, THREE UNLINED FITTED CAPES, MEDICI COLLAR LINED WITH FRILLS OF ACCORDION PLEATED CHIFFON.

who work in the more ordinary laundries, but, instead of ironing, they weigh and re-weigh their "pieces" with the most minute exactness and the values comprehended in each separate operation amount to thousands of dollars.

The door-up of linen, dimity and cotton "pieces" may become an expert in her line after a couple of years' practice and no particular education, but it takes the silk "boiler-off" trouble that time to attain mastery of her profession. The conditioner deals only with the raw silk as it comes from the cocoon, a filmy, deceptive substance to work with.

"How long did it take me to learn this business?" said a woman assayer as she stirred her bubbling kags. "A lifetime. It's thirteen years since I started in business, and I've been conditioning all that time. My father and grandfather were conditioners. They learned silk in the old country."

"I took up silk conditioning because it pays better than stenography and I had the right feel of the fingers," said another boiler-off. "No matter how intelligent a girl is, if the silk sticks to her fingers she's a failure, but I found out quite accidentally, after I had settled on being a secretary, that I was a born silk conditioner. Women having the right knack with silk can always make good money and the silk industry is one line of work in which women are absolutely indispensable. For instance, only women are employed in the warp room of any silk manufacturer and this preparing of the lengthwise thread of the loom is most important, and a department enabling the industrial worker to make \$25 a week. Men are excellent weavers, good foremen and weighers, but when it comes to direct handling of the raw filaments they yield the palm. You may have seen very smart, intelligent people try to make the slip knot in tatting and fail, and so such inexplicable sleight-of-hand is requisite for the worker in raw silk."

"Now, in silk conditioning or assaying not only this proper feel of the fingers is needed, but the proper judgment and shrewd calculation. If I let my drying silk scorch, for instance, or if I don't boil the gum out of it thoroughly, and if I err even so much as a denier or a gram in computing my weights there's a peck of trouble. The value of the whole bale of silk is reckoned on the conditioned sample (that sample composed of three parts drawn at random from the bale) and the raw silk that travels all the way from India, China or Japan is worth something."

A professor who never graduated from any college, but in charge of the raw silk conditioning where the women work, a man who knows every sort of adulterant or cheater ever practiced by silk growers since time was, and to whom manufacturers and importers appeal with their perplexities. But this director leaves the actual work of discovering these adulterants to his lieutenants, fully assured of their reliability. Before the hanks of yellow and white raw silk are plumped into the boilers to be "boiled off" they are subjected to the desiccating apparatus to determine the exact percentage of moisture absorbed by the silk since the worms spun it. Silk, like all textile fibers, contains a certain degree of moisture, but a bale of silk is capable of holding from 15 to 25 per cent of water without showing a sign of the excess.

The Oriental silk farmers always start to reel their silk from the cocoons in the beginning of the rainy season. The importers and manufacturers do not rellish paying for water at raw silk rates, hence the conditioning houses. After the moisture has been thoroughly expressed from the hanks of silk they are put in little white bams and boiled twice in a bath of boiling soda, rinsed dried by hot air again and then put through the desiccating apparatus. The women manipulate the dozens of samples, weighing them with the accuracy that apothecaries use in weighing out critical drugs and managing every operation with extreme neatness because of the costly nature of the goods.

The women conditioners also work in the sizing room, where the reeled silk threads are measured and their evenness ascertained.

The test is made on five skeins taken at random out of a bale. "Winds very well," "Winds well," "Not a good winder," are the three grades of certificate. The skeins are also weighed individually, and there are tests for raw silk, for silk and for spun silk, all accomplished by women possessing the rare finger touch and accuracy. The winding machines used are delicate and expensive. The raw silk wound off from the cocoon where the silk is raised is reeled very evenly, thick and thin, more filaments in one spot than another. This is a drawback to smoothly woven goods, and the conditioners tell the manufacturer just what degree of evenness he can depend on. The silk threads are then tested, both as to their tenacity and elasticity, two qualifications inherent in the best silk. To gauge the tenacity, increasing weights are hung to the single thread until it breaks, the tester registering the weight required to break it. The elasticity of a silk thread depends upon the length per cent to which that thread can stretch without breaking. Ten different tests are made for each sample and then the average is taken—a process involving exact mathematical proficiency, so the testers must be good scholars.

One other test is made, namely, the finding of the twist in a given sample of thrown silk. Deft fingers and acute sight are requisite for this, much unweaving and counting being necessary, and when it comes to the finding of common sewing silk contains about 200 filaments of the silk as the worm spun it, some idea of the patience and astuteness of these testers may be arrived at.

EDUCATION OF WOMEN.
Hazard of Wellesley Indicates Where Improvement is Needed.

"Some Ideals in the Education of Women" was the subject of a paper read in Limerick, Boston, recently, by President Caroline Hazard of Wellesley. She said in part: "It is a significant fact that the old painters and poets embodied their ideals in feminine form. Time was when every grove and stream had its own nymph, and mythology gave us not only Venus and Juno, but Athena, the divinity of wisdom. With the coming of Christianity the virtues took their place as women. Mercy and wisdom and purity not only were represented in feminine form, but the more masculine virtues, justice and fortitude, were presented to the eye as raised and crowned women. This longing of the soul for a visible embodiment of truth and purity found expression in the worship of the Virgin Mary. From time immemorial all men have conceived as best and noblest in life to have been related to the form of a woman. In our modern world, and with the change of ideals which the progress of time has brought, it is still the eternal feminine which leads men on."

"In the matter of education the main question to consider is: What results are we aiming at? In order to determine this, we must make some fundamental inquiries as to the position of women in our modern life. There are three ways in which women are prominent—they are the binders together of society; they are the beautifiers of life, and they are the conservers of morals. Thus women must stand for conservation, for grace, for purity, and in the three directions they must have special training. Wise conservatism must be founded on law and law must teach obedience, which lies at the root of all growth. Those who are to interpret beauty must have a knowledge of what is beautiful and the training of the perspective faculties has to be undertaken in a very thoughtful and serious way. No one can reproduce what he is not absolute master of; and beauty to wield any influence on life and character must be deeply absorbed and enter into the personality of its exponent.

"And in the third place beauty must pass into duty. This is the supreme task of all education, the training of the soul. How shall duty govern conduct? What fruit of personality shall be the product of training? It is women who must answer many of these questions, for women are the guardians

of morals. Women ought to be the spiritual leaders of the world. The days of the languishing and elegant female are now passed, and the Amelia of raven tresses, super-slender waists and frequent fainting fits are happily out of place among the robust and athletic girls of the modern world. The improved hygiene of the age has begun to show its natural result in an increasing stature of women, now very noticeable in society."

President Hazard did not attempt any detailed description of an ideal curriculum for female education, but suggested that, since conservatism is the body of unwritten law handed down to us from former generations, and since woman is the natural defender of this conservatism, she must be liberally trained, lest conservatism degenerate into obstinacy, as is often the case with the uneducated.

"To fit her for her work as a beautifier of life," continued the speaker, "let woman receive a long and serious training in perception, learning to recognize form, grace and especially proportion, which is really one of the great things of life."

"We must learn that the dictum of Virgil, 'varium et mutabile,' is not a slander, but a profound truth, and that this very flux and flow that we share with the tides is the strength and not the weakness of our nature. We must learn when to wait for a sober second thought and when to accept a sudden inspiration as reliable, when to say with King David: 'This is mine infirmity,' and when to distrust a freakish impulse. Goethe was right in saying that the eternally feminine draws us upward, though there is on this side the feminine qualities, on the other side the masculine. The lines overlap and the most characteristic female

qualities are sometimes found in masculine bodies and vice versa."

WOMAN'S MOST WINNSOME AGE.
Thirty is Considered the Time of Her Most Attractive Beauty.

Why do women hesitate to tell their age? By common consent, says Collier's Weekly, it is regarded as very rude and boorish to ask a woman a categorical question regarding the number of her birthdays. Yet there are those who do not hesitate on the point, and heretofore that is a matter of opinion. Probably the feeling in the matter had its origin in the long ago when matrimony was the ordinary woman's only desirable goal, and when as she grew older her chances of finding a mate diminished perceptibly. The situation has so entirely changed and spinsterhood has become so inviting that we should expect to discover an alteration in the manners of women on this point and to find them quite candid as to their claims to maturity or the reverse. Fifty years or more looks as forty did a score of years ago. Thirty—always a very winsome age, the age of woman's most captivating beauty—is not now to be distinguished in freshness from the twenty-five. Outdoor life is doing for women what nothing else can do—making them beautiful and keeping them young.

Frisks of Fashion.
 White and tinted chifon in the form of various kinds of flowers, some with jeweled centers, are being worn in great numbers. The improvement in the manufacture of these frisks is many other black materials from the effect of the weather. The new frisks are made of various materials and shorter skirts are enumerated among fashions that are to prevail before the coming season. A fashionable and becoming garment is black velvet ribbon run through the meshes of white or colored net, with the ends of French brilliants of fine-cut steel fastened where the strands of velvet appear.

A pretty gown which has four narrow plaits some distance apart on either side of the waist, and a row of large buttons at the upper part of each tuck, and smaller buttons outline the waist of the bodice and skirt, is also being worn.

Black chifon buttonholed with dull black beads and lined with black tulle, and in place of the heavy pleated blue-white inside the bodice and skirt, are a new line of snow-white English crepe or crimped white cloth, with a row of large buttons at the lower edge with loops.

There are many rough straps in the new hats on the market, so far—rather, simple than elaborate. Some of them are made of a Cuban straw, and have a semi-tropical appearance. It is a big hat, that is the fashion. The hat is made of straw, with a round crown and wide, soft rim.



EARLY SPRING STREET DRESS OF HELIOTROPE CLOTH WITH TRIMMING OF WHITE CLOTH, APPLIED IN STRIPS.

southern army general, is engaged in military maneuvers at Newport, N. H., as acting captain of Company K, Nineteenth regiment, is now fighting in the Philippines. The young couple met in Manila, Luzerne, Ind. She came to the front with one of the most remarkable women in all the Philippines. It was in the country. The new shooter is Miss Sonia Wright, and John K. Long, the marksman, claims the honor of having discovered her. It was only a short time ago that Miss Wright came to the front of the Lafayette water works in company with several other women. The subject of marksmanship came up for discussion. Miss Wright said she had never handled a rifle, and wanted to learn how to shoot. Mr. Long got a rifle, initiated her into its use, and put up a white card with a black center some distance away. The first shot was a bullseye. It was regarded as accidental. Four more shots were fired, and only two both for the black center. That was the beginning. She kept her practice up with vigor. Mr. Long decided to try her at trick shooting. At her two hundredth shot she clipped a card in two which was held in the air. The next shot was a bullseye. This came a series of other trick shots which were revelations. Recently Miss Wright gave an exhibition to her friends. Some of the things she did with the rifle was to knock the ashes off a cigar, snuff out a candle, light a match, split cards held endwise and smash two-inch glass balls, holding the gun in all sorts of positions.

To the Public.
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 Detroit Journal. A certain candidate was soliciting the suffrages of the electors as a farmer. In proof that he was a farmer he showed a gold brick which he had once bought.

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