

# IN THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN.

## TOILETTES FOR THE BALL.

### Marked Artistic Beauty of Evening Costumes.

NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—Magnificence of material and simplicity of cut are the distinguishing features of the new evening gowns. There is, too, a noticeable modification in the flare of skirts, which in the richer textures reveal superb insets of lace and paillettes (spanglers) of gold or jet. The popular bodice is the round "baby" affair, which shows a décolletage discreetly modest as to limit, and with this a skirt that fastens across the back without gathers is a favorite model.

However, to obtain this very desirable plainness, which looks so extremely simple, a good cut is necessary, and any accidental shortening of a seam will bring disaster, as

by it. Tulle can not be too lightly handled, and, to preserve the look of misty airiness which it needs to be effective, dressmakers frequently leave flounces and ruchings unhemmed.

Another white and gold gown was of crepe de chine, treated with embroideries in flat tinsel of the most burnished and glittering variety. The design of these embroideries was a sort of horn of plenty, overflowing at the wide top with raised bunches of grapes, slightly below the top of these, which pointed upward from the skirt hem, and were perhaps six in number, a small butterfly was posed as if fallen from the fruit. Across the front of the baby bodice a single horn overflowed at the two sides for evenness, and in starting contrast to this magnificence there was a tiny neck ruche of black net, which finished the skirt as well.

and taffeta silk in the same shade, hand printed with black butterflies.

Many black velvet evening gowns are seen, giving, with their rich velvet-appliqued transparencies and jet embroideries, a look of splendor dear to the feminine heart. But all is not gold that glitters here, for some of these seemingly magnificent gowns are no more than velvet, which is now to be had in the most beautiful qualities.

A home made velvet evening dress lately seen was a miracle of judgment and economy. Black, point d'esprit had been combined with the silky pile—cotton point d'esprit, if you please, at 69 cents the yard!—the whole long knitted train being made of it. The velvet front of the skirt was cut with a circular flounce, into which a foot border of big round net transparency was set. This jaunty little, two slender rings of the velvet. A bolero outlining of these appeared on the round velvet bodice, which topped a little blouse effect of net and was finished with short knitted sleeves and a décolletage drape of the same. And the price of this splendor, all to dear ladies, was not \$100—three days service of a sewing woman included!

From the scented fripperies of evening finery to clothes designed for the slaughter of innocent little birds is a big jump, but a fourth picture calling for a word, the jump must be made. This jaunty little, is of green and white Scotch cheviot, with trimmings and belt of white deerkin. The coquettish Scotch cap tops it fittingly.

Since the majority of us do not hunt—and would not if we could—we will treat it as a rainy day or outing dress, for even in the winter there are country excursions that call for short skirts and trim lines. It is of green and white Scotch cheviot, with trimmings and belt of white deerkin. The coquettish Scotch cap tops it fittingly.

### GETTING RID OF MASHERS.

#### Two Methods Devised by Progressive Club Women.

A number of young literary women of New York had left off nibbling cake and sipping chocolate preparatory to an afternoon session of a club meeting. The conversation gradually tumbled from lofty flights to commonplace realities and the subject for a time turned upon the tribulations of an unprotected woman at night in a great city.

"I can only say," remarked an animated young club member, who had a stunning figure and a face more pronounced for character than beauty, "that if women knew how to handle those prowling beasts in guise of human beings there would be fewer of them. Not long ago I was standing one night on the curb of a Broadway and Twenty-third street, crossing waiting for a car when a creature came up behind and deliberately brushed against me. He was neither a rouser nor a fob, but a really respectable looking, well dressed middle-aged man. I paid no attention till he tried to open a conversation, then I moved to the corner diagonally opposite. The old trick followed and continued to make himself objectionable. I dreaded a scene upon the crowded street or I should have called a policeman, so I simply turned sharply to



CHARMING BALL COSTUMES.

is woman's legitimate occupation?" Is it nursing the sick, caring for the wounded, looking after the unfortunate? It was only after a struggle of years that they were permitted to enter our public institutions and share with men in nursing the sick, visiting the feeble-minded, in but few of these are they now permitted to practice the healing art of the physician, even upon those of their own sex, and they are almost universally excluded from boards of management, even from those institutions for the care of children. They have fought for decades to secure the privilege of receiving and looking after women and children in station houses and prisons—all of these positions, plainly within woman's sphere, being monopolized by men. The public has not forgotten the bitter contest which was waged at the beginning of our recent war with Spain to obtain for women a constant and honorable opportunity to minister to sick and wounded soldiers, even the position of nurse being claimed by men as their right.

If we are to divide the work of the world into man's province and woman's province, shall we place the profession of teaching and efficient women, the opportunity to minister to sick and wounded soldiers, even the position of nurse being claimed by men as their right.

For evening gowns for young girls the small pompadour brocades and striped silks are charmingly appropriate. The new silks with either line of coarse waving slaw, a most brilliant sheen.

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# DO WOMEN WORK TOO HARD?

BY MARGARET L. BRIGGS.

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Is it right for women to work so hard? It is a fact that many pleasures are spoiled by the woman who is too tired to enjoy them, and whose husband and children cannot enjoy them without her. Many a home is continually miserable because the mother of the household is always tired, always overworked.

We are put into this world to be as happy as we can. If that is true it ought to be the clear duty of every woman to shed happiness around her. A happy woman accomplishes more good and does more to make those about her happy than a half dozen women who are always working beyond their strength, and who are, as a result, too tired to give their families the sympathy and love they need from her.

The fact of the matter is, men work just as hard as women. They do not attempt so much, it is true, but their work tells and they really accomplish more than women because they have a quiet way of going about a thing and getting it done. The average woman, knowing she has certain work to do, will worry about it hours beforehand, and by the time she is actually getting down to it she has worked herself up into such a state that she expends twice as much energy as she should. At the end of the day, having repeated this performance with every task, she is too tired to eat. The family spends a gloomy evening. Not a word is said at the dinner table, because they all miss the mother; afterwards each crawls away to his room because the bond between them is broken when mother is so tired. They all feel sorry for her, but each wishes in his heart that she had left a little of the work undone and instead had charmed them with her presence and the cheerfulness and happiness that surround her when she is not so tired.

This is an every day occurrence in so many homes, for the women of this generation generally are nervous and excited. If they would go about their work as coolly as a man does they wouldn't get tired. But they cannot do it, because their nerves will not let them.

If women will but look after their physical condition they can overcome that feeling of utter exhaustion. Let the woman who is always worked up and nervous over her daily tasks, who is always too tired at night to be happy with her family, take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It will soon cure her nervousness and she will undertake each task as it comes along without all the fuss and worry that makes it so hard.

Half the things that women think are so terrible and in need of such immediate reform would not be at all bad if they would sit down and think about them rationally. Many of the reforms would work themselves out without having so much energy wasted on them if the women had but the patience to wait.

How much better it would be for everyone, if women, instead of slaving themselves to death and making all those about them miserable, would understand that their physical condition makes them depressed and that things would not require so much effort and make them so tired if they themselves were well. The women who are too tired to talk at night, too tired to take any interest in the affairs of the family outside of the housework and the care of the children, the women who unnecessarily make slaves of themselves, almost always have some female disorder that seeks an outlet in this nervous excitement or depression. Not one of the women who are always so tired but has a backache and a discharge of some kind, showing that there is inflammation of the ovarian organs. Her condition itself would make her tired, even if she never did a stroke of work. Every woman who is always sick and tired should make an effort to get well, if only for the reason that her present condition makes her husband miserable because he thinks she is working too hard for his sake. He would willingly forego half of the attentions and comforts she provides for the sake of a few happy hours in her society.

I wish every woman who feels so tired would look at this matter in the right way. Her condition will be easily overcome if she will take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which strengthens the feminine organs and cures all their ills. Mrs. Pinkham's medicine is just what is needed by the woman who is always tired, excited, depressed or nervous. With its use backaches and headaches disappear, the fret and worry and nervousness are replaced by a cheerful and happy temperament, and the daily tasks grow lighter with each hour. Let the women who are working too hard, who get too nervous and excited over their work, who are too exhausted to eat much of the time, try this remedy that has done so much and is now doing so much to relieve those suffering from feminine troubles.



EXQUISITE EVENING GOWN.

the placket must meet easily to set well. Inverted plaits are a simple device for the placket finish—from one to three each side the lap—and one that may be attempted by the most modest home dressmaker.

Elbow sleeves, fitting the upper arm tightly and ending in a deep killed flounce of lace or chiffon, are a detail of certain stylish brocade bodices, which accompany lace, chiffon or net skirts, and show smart little folded tails, held down by two or more jeweled buttons. An under blouse of the skirt texture often shows at sides and front of these; the décolletage is rather lower than that of the round bodice, and is finished with prim little collars and revers, which, if of lace, may end in stole points that fasten under a crush belt of panne velvet or gold net.

### White and Gold Effects.

Among the French models a few rare gowns in softly falling crepe or silk show a decidedly Greek influence in the severe simplicity of their "hang" and in their white and gold combinations. White and gold is, in fact, a favorite motive this season for toilettes de soirée, and by that is meant anything that is low in the neck and which has been fashioned with festive evening intent. Not even the radiantly charming little frocks of net and mousseline, which show applied garlands of silk flowers in natural tints, are as delightful as these pearls and white gowns. They are the very gems of the season, and though the white and gold motif may be carried to points of barbaric splendor it yet admits of the simplest treatment.

For example, a fairy-like costume of white tulle is threaded at the flounces with fine gold fil (about the size of 40 thread); the raw edges of hems being held in place

It is this surprising combination of materials that makes the French concoction a thing of beauty and a joy forever. However odd it is, it has a distinction all its own, and you wonder, as you look upon the artful mixtures, why you had never thought of putting these things together.

Black velvet ribbon, the narrow baby sort, seen this long while, is a frequent note on the simpler evening gowns. It is threaded through big-holed nets, laces, skirt panels, bodices and sleeves, and sometimes appears bunched in great knots, which are thrown scatteringly over a pale tinted skirt with smart effect.

The "juis" are especially lovely, some with tinselled stripes and lines of delicate color throwing out a soft radiance like silver.

To return to the "pina" frock, which is in a rich ivory tint, with bias tuckings forming the front of bodice and jupe. These are in turn outlined with a scalloped lace edged with tiny frillings of black velvet ribbon. Six skirt frills of the pina are very finely pleated, and the odd sleeve is finished with a deep elbow flounce.

A Touch of Black Velvet.

Barrettes of black velvet—up and down strips, attached only at the ends—appear on a third frock, which is of pale blue Louisiana, with rich decorations of schre lace. This, on bodice and skirt, beautifully frames the velvet barrette, which bulges loosely over white chiffon foundations, in a founce heading and bolero band. Short frills of lace form the youthful sleeves, and the splendid ermine cloak is lined throughout with schre yellow Louisiana in narrow frills.

A stunning costume de soirée is a symphony in maize and black. It is shown in the cut with the tulle effect in long points, the materials being maize veiling



JAUNTY OUTDOOR RIG.

him and said, quietly: "Pardon me, sir, but might I trouble you to point me out a gentleman?"

"His sallow face flushed, he took off his hat in a desperate effort to be polite, mumbled something that sounded like, 'I beg your pardon,' and ambled off into Madison square."

"Oh, that's not nearly so bad as my experience," chimed in a girl with a pretty face and short, trim figure. "I met my tormentor on a Sixth avenue elevated only two or three nights ago. We were almost alone in the car. He sat opposite and fairly stared me out of countenance. No matter which way I turned his impudent eyes followed me. I bore it as long as I could, and then as I was not far from home I got off at the next station."

"The night was dark and I felt very frightened, but anything was better than the unblinking insolence of that brute. I was hurrying along past some vacant lots as quickly as I could when the sound of a rapid yet a stealthy tread behind me became distinctly audible. I unconsciously turned my head, and there, just a few yards off, was that wretch of a man. He evidently took my motion for a sign of encouragement, as he at once quickened his pace. There was no other being in sight and I was nearly frightened to death. I knew that something had to be done and done quickly, but what? I really don't know how it came into my head to do it, but I just stood still, opened my purse and when the fellow came up I held out two copper cents. 'Here, poor man,' I said, 'perhaps this will help you. It's all I have.'"

"He was so taken aback that his hat fell off. I did not wait to see him pick it up, but when I glanced over my shoulder he was rapidly disappearing in an opposite direction."

### MAN OUT OF HIS SPHERE.

Woman's Sphere Wholly Destroyed by Masculine Competition.

The reproach continually made that "women are entering into competition with men" naturally raises the question: "What

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