

# FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN THE WOMEN FOLKS

## How to Dress.

**D**URING the last ten years there has been rapid growth of good judgment in relation to dress. It will be noted that certain styles which conform to the more graceful lines of the figure maintain a sort of vogue; that designers, intent upon creating a complete change looking to the more rapid displacement of fashion, are less successful. If temporarily dispossessed, that which is useful and graceful soon returns. One season there is a cry that there will be no more shirtwaists; the next, that the clinging skirt, falling in graceful folds, is to be displaced by bouffants, or hoops, or what not.

But it will be observed that every effort of this kind is followed by a reaction in favor of that which conforms to what is best in art. The day of the absurd hoop-skirt is gone forever. The day of overloading gowns with ornaments is rapidly disappearing. The evening gown itself tends more and more to simplicity of outline.

And in the world of ready-made clothing, those who manufacture are coming to note this growth in the direction of what is true upon the part of even the least knowing of women. Year by year, the firms who know their business best are choosing simpler lines, less of elaboration, less of ornament, and it has been noted that those who have their stocks unsold at the end of the season are almost invariably manufacturers whose poor taste does not permit them to understand this principle.—Twentieth Century Home.

## Women Dentists to Be a Fad.

**W**OMEN dentists are not numerous, but they have been increasingly popular for some years past; and now that Dr. Caroline Wolfbrück of Manhattan has been making such a hit among fashionable and titled personages on the other side the mill pond they bid fair to develop into a veritable fad. Dr. Wolfbrück's hit on the other side is personal and social rather than professional, inasmuch as she went abroad for a holiday and proposes to have it.

Now there are three dental schools in the state of New York, two in Manhattan and one in Buffalo, and two of them are co-educational. The old established New York College of Dentistry still bars out petticoats, so that the only place in Manhattan today where a woman may become expert in that particular form of torture is the New York Dental school in Forty-second street. There are about twenty of them there now studying and these are pretty evenly distributed over the four years that go to make up the course.

Out west co-education has a much stronger hold than it has in the more conservative east; the biggest schools and colleges admit women to all their courses, and any of them that have dental schools at all graduate women as well as men, so the woman dentist is much more numerous there than she is here. In Chicago, for instance, there are about 350 of her. But wherever she studies she must take the full four-year course. There is not a school in the country where she can get her degree in less. That is settled by a national association of dental faculties and the association a few years ago decided that three years was not enough, and the four-year course was substituted for the old three-year course. There has been considerable grumbling at the loss of time involved and it is possible that at a future meeting the association may return to first principles.

The majority of the women now practicing in New York share offices with men and act as their assistants, but there are perhaps a score who are in business

on their own account, and have built up very nice little practices of their own. Most of these started out as Dr. Wolfbrück did, with the idea of confining their practice to women and children, but most of them have been obliged to forego such unjust discrimination, and most of them will own up, as Dr. Wolfbrück does, that after all the men are easier to work on. Needless to say, the men return the compliment and find a woman's hands pleasanter and gentler than a man's.—Brooklyn Eagle.

## Mrs. Roosevelt's China.

**M**RS. ROOSEVELT now rejoices in the possession of a greater collection of china than was at the disposal of any of her predecessors as First Lady of the Land. More than this, the present mistress of the White House has, what few if any former four-year queens of the republic have had, a wealth of table appointments equal to the treasure trove of costly ceramics to be found in the mansion of the American family of great wealth where lavish entertaining is the rule.

Mrs. Roosevelt now has for use on her table upward of 5,000 perfect pieces of china. Only dishes in perfect condition are included in this enumeration, for, to it known, no piece of china marred by the slightest flaw is ever allowed to have place

on the presidential table. China so slightly chipped or cracked that the average housewife would pass over the defects is rigorously banished from the White House china closets as soon as the defect is noticed, writes Waldon Pawcett in the March Housekeeper.

It might naturally be supposed that the 1,235 pieces comprising Mrs. Roosevelt's handsome new colonial china service, made expressly to order, would constitute the largest single representation of china in the great collection, yet such is not the case. Mrs. Roosevelt's record as a purchaser of fine china was surpassed by Mrs. Cleveland, who left as a legacy to future mistresses of the executive mansion 1,745 pieces of china. Yet, strangely enough, Mrs. Cleveland never ordered a complete china service, but merely made purchases as occasion demanded. This same plan was followed by Mrs. McKinley, and more than 300 examples of her taste yet remain at the White House.

Several of the earlier mistresses of the White House exercised the prerogative of the First Lady of the Land and ordered for use at state and private dinners complete china services, exemplifying their individual taste in form and decoration. Of the service secured by Mrs. Lincoln less than 150 pieces remain, and even a smaller remnant is left of the service chosen by Mrs. Grant. There is a single plate of the Dolly Madison service, which stands as a

lonely reminder of the china used during the first half century of the history of the White House, but there are yet on hand upward of 400 pieces of the famous china service painted for Mrs. Hayes by Theodore R. Davis.

Mrs. Roosevelt's new china is Wedgwood and was made in England, but almost all the other ware at the White House is Haviland and was made at Limoges, France. The decoration of the various services represents a wide range of feminine taste. The Lincoln china, the first service of the purchase of which there is any record, was ornamented in maroon, with the United States seal in colors occupying a conspicuous position upon each piece.

## A Quiet Hour.

**P**LEASE state to the court exactly what you did between 8 and 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning," said the lawyer to a delicate looking little woman on the witness stand in a Pittsburg court.

"Well," she said, after a moment's reflection, "I washed my two children and got them ready for school and sewed a button on Johnny's coat and mended a rent in Nellie's dress. Then I tidied up my sitting room and watered my house plants and glanced over the morning paper. Then I dusted the parlor and set things to rights in it and washed my lamp chimneys and combed my baby's hair and sewed a button on one of her little shoes, and then I swept out the front entry and brushed and put away the children's Sunday clothes, and wrote a note to Johnny's teacher asking her to excuse him for not being at school on Friday. Then I fed my canary bird and gave the groceryman an order and swept off the back porch, and then I sat down and rested a few minutes before the clock struck 9. That's all."

## She's a Metal Worker.

**S**HE has a little forge in one of the rooms of her home, and there this clever New England girl works away with metal and semi-precious stones, turning out buckles, buttons and odd dress ornaments that are the envy of all who cannot afford to buy them.

The fad is a comparatively new one with her. Inspiration for it came on a recent trip abroad when she became deeply interested in the exquisitely wrought metal ornaments she noticed in the shops of the dealers in antiques. It was the designs on these ornaments that first attracted her attention, because for a good many years she had been interested in the study of design and had carried out many original ideas in embroidery.

When she got home she bought a forge and tools and began work. Her small forge blazes away day after day and her enthusiasm keeps blazing away, too.

The fad is now no longer really a fad, for she takes orders for her work and has established a business of such proportions that she is justified in believing that she can soon take another trip abroad to study. She has made buckles her specialty.

"I was fortunate enough," she explained to a friend, "to get my trade started just when the craze for fancy buttons was so violent. My friends are all crazy for the ones I make because I make them to go with the gown and I study the wearer's individuality. This old gilt set with garnets was made to go with a beautiful deep red velvet cloak.

"Individualism in dress is all the go now. That is why I have such a market for my buttons and dress ornaments. My customers know they are getting something positively unique."

"Does the work take strength?"  
"Yes, and patience."

## Chat About Women

Miss Esther Allen Howland, who has just died at Quincy, Mass., made the first fancy valentine in this country.

Miss Edna Earle, a society woman of Brooklyn, is planning to spend a year in the Sierra Nevadas for the purpose of studying the manner of living of the hundreds of people who, because of illness or overwork, go to that section to recuperate. The young woman will put her information into book form. She will start early in the spring and will carry a portable shack.

Josie Smith, a young girl of Mount Carmel, Ill., daughter of a civil war veteran, who is sexton of the town cemetery, is the first feminine grave digger of that part of the country. Her father has become too feeble to attend to the duties of sexton and the girl has taken up the work, digging the graves and looking after all the duties of her father.

It is a tossup since the last policy was taken out, which woman carries the heaviest life insurance. Mrs. Leland Stanford of California or Mrs. James Dunsen of Toronto. The odds are in favor of Mrs. Stanford, for she now is rated at an even \$1,000,000. There is no question they are the most heavily insured women on the American continent and far ahead of any of their sisters in the east. The next nearest is Mrs. Basil N. Duke of Durham, N. C., who has policies amounting to \$380,000.

Dr. Mary Walker, being in Washington, decided to attend the hearing of the Smoot case, but when she reached the committee room the place was so crowded that the doorkeeper would not let her pass. She claimed to be a member of the press, but could not show a newspaper worker's card. The doctor finally found her way into the spectators' gallery, but had hardly seated herself when the committee went into executive session and she forgot a fine cellular, which she left on a seat, and had to wait until the committee adjourned, several hours later, before she recovered it. It is said that some of the doctor's remarks during this weary wait were almost masculine in their vigor.

Perhaps no woman has escaped the observation of the newspapers in respect of her charities as much as Mrs. Elliott F. Shepard. Long before her husband died, a decade or more ago, this daughter of the house of Vanderbilt made society miss her while she gave her mornings to her children and her afternoons to the hospitals in which she was then, as now, interested. No woman in the city gave so much time to practical charity from 1880 to 1900; and if Mrs. Shepard has withdrawn somewhat from her old activities because of the sorrows that have come with the years, her pocketbook still has the clasp off and her private secretary is kept busy doing some kindly act.

## Frills of Fashion

Spanish lace is finding favor once more and is used both for scarfs and parasols. Granite shawls of embroidered crepe are to be a part of the summer girl's outfit.

New hat straws are dyed to match all the latest and most subtle colorings in silk and wool.

Hosiery is even more beautiful than it was last season. The heavy embroideries are once more giving way to small dainty embroidered sprays and figures.

Ripe apricot, sand color, cavalry, a beautiful yellow with deep shading, puce, a brown with a pink mauve tone, and parchment white are new and popular colors.

The tucker beloved of our grandmothers is once more in fashion, and in lace, net or sheerest lingerie stuff appears inside the low round décolletage of many of the newest evening frock models.

Buttons of suede overlaid with metal are one of the choicest novelties. The leather makes a soft, rich surface background for the metal, and is chosen to harmonize with the frock material.

The soft leather belt is evidently to retain the vogue it acquired during the winter, and is shown in almost all colorings, with leather covered or metal buckles. Some of the smartest imported belts of this class have two-inch elastic set in over the hips to insure the right clinging curve.

To accommodate the full skirts and do away with the superfluous number of seams, manufacturers are turning out all sorts and descriptions of goods in extra widths. Some of the new silks are forty-six inches wide, and it is possible to buy embroidered swiss and other lingerie fabrics in forty-two inch widths.

The most exquisite of the new lingerie is trimmed in the fine embroideries which are the season's triumph. The new headings are especially pretty, the ribbons being run under dainty clusters of flowers, fleur-de-lis, etc., instead of being threaded in and out of simple slits.

The extreme point of change in women's footwear for the spring is in shoes and stockings made to match street costumes. The tongueless shoe and the shoe built on the plan of the lid of a cranberry pie are to be in vogue, but whatever the design it must match the skirt in color. Of course, it will not be necessary to have the shoes made of the same material as the gowns—an approximate matching of the coloring will do very nicely, and the fashionable shoe dealers have an abundant supply of fabric-topped shoes. It is only women who want to rush a fad for all it is worth that will have shoes made of the exact material of their gowns. Many girls will be content to wear patent leather low shoes with spats made to match their street suits, though naturally the complete shoe will be the smarter of the two.

