

FOR AND ABOUT THE WOMEN FOLKS

Women On the Farm.

A SPRIGHTLY woman of our acquaintance, a native of Ohio, but long a resident of an agricultural community in Oklahoma, makes in confidence a charge against the farmers of the east, among whom she has been visiting, to which we give currency rather than sanction. It is that the average farmer east of the Mississippi anticipates with too much complacency the estate of widowhood. He expects that his wife shall die before him, and that he himself shall marry again. If he does not exactly encourage his first helpmeet in working her head off, he interposes no objection. Hence every eastern farming district is thick with transitory widowers.

It is certain that women work harder on farms in the central west and in the east than they do in the states verging on the arid belt. They have the care of dairies—a task usually spared the western woman; they raise more poultry than their western sisters; they have larger houses to keep in order, and in a humid climate more mud is tracked into their dwellings than in the transmissourian region. In addition, they are frequently encouraged to go into the harvest field.

If they are not often asked to help get in the wheat, oats and corn, they have become a recognized factor in the hay harvest; thousands of them help in getting in and mowing it away. Sometimes they drive the horse that keeps the threshing machine going. After his hearty midday meal the farmer takes his nooning, while his wife, who has gleaned by his side, has to put away the dishes and tidy up. She rejoins him in the field in the afternoon and defers her housework until the heavy farm work and the evening's milking are over. After that maybe she attends to the garden; that also is "woman's work."

These are undoubted facts. Farm life is certainly harder on women in the east than it is in the west. For the inference that follows, however, the young Oklahoma woman must stand sponsor. She suggests that the eastern farmers are unconsciously adjusting themselves to a sociological condition. There are more women than men in their districts. By asking of women labors beyond their endurance the disparity is automatically corrected, and, although husbands are comparatively scarce, every woman, sooner or later, may secure one, somewhat as officers secure promotions in a disastrous war. First wives, our informant urges, should not toil so hard in laying up treasure for second wives to enjoy.—New York Mail.

How to Be Beautiful.

THE fact that every newspaper of note has at least once a week columns devoted to the care of the body, showing how to secure the best conditions for beauty and strength, is an indication of the widespread interest in the subject.

Women of today do not rely on the caprice of Dame Fortune to bestow on them beauty or ugliness as she sees fit. They take the matter into their own hands. If they have been favored with a fair face and beauty of outline the idea is to become still fairer and to maintain the youthful figure in all its perfection of grace. If they have been stunted in respect to beauty they have already learned there is no reason why they should remain so. Art comes in, not with powder and paint, which belong to artifice, but with healthy colors

that lend glow to the homeliest face. Baths instead of cosmetics, rest as well as joyous recreation and athletics under a wise master work marvels in the line of beauty.

A new theory, or rather an old one with new application, has lately been set forth at some length by H. L. Piner. He would beautify the face by beautifying the mind. Evil passions are quickly shown in the lines of the face, and he maintains the converse is equally true; that the silent songs one sings, the undercurrents of thought and emotion, the dreams, the longings, the prayers and aspirations, all leave their impress on the face for good or ill, and that one should be mindful of the trend of these if she has any regard for physical beauty.

Adelina Patti years ago said she could not afford the luxury of tears or even indulge in sad thoughts and repinings. They cost the face and voice too much. Christian Scientists say the same thing, only in different words. Taking no more stock in gymnastics than in cosmetics, they depend on harmony of mind and soul to create the beauty which every woman wants and every man admires.

It is all right for physicians and metaphysicians to emphasize theirisms and hobbies and work them for all they are worth, but most persons will find it to their advantage to mind both the physical and the spiritual. A good, healthy body makes for a good mental and spiritual condition, and vice versa; a sound mind and even temper tend to a beautiful body. Constant regard for both is essential to the highest form of beauty.—Chicago Chronicle.

Novelties in Silver ware.

THE fortunate matron who has planned to add to her establishment a few choice specimens of the silversmith's art will find herself forced to decide between two extremes in selecting the new pieces for her dinner service. There is no medium this season in the finish of sterling silver. Either it is marvelously simple in design or superlatively elaborate. Some of it is a positive offense to the woman of good taste, as, for instance, a set of flat tableware, with handles showing a woman's head, her flowing locks following the line of the handle and twining lovingly about it. This may be art from the decorative standpoint, but to the woman who delights in a suitable table service it does not appeal.

In flat ware the simple beaded pattern is in high favor, and to match the beading on handles of forks and spoons, the knives now come with a fine line of beading separating the blade from the handle.

Flowers seem to be much in demand for decorating the more elaborate flat services, and almost every blossom is reproduced, from field daisies to orchids. With the elaborate patterns a dull finish is applied to the silver, but for the beaded designs the finish is in highly polished satin effect.

In complete hollow sets, including the coffee urn, the various pots and accompanying pieces, the Colonial and Empire designs seem to lead. Both are severely plain, rather low, with long spouts and a highly polished surface. The Colonial design shows uncompromising square lines, the Empire has more gracious curves. The Colonial has no beading, but it is sometimes seen on the Empire sets. The real earmark of the Empire design, however, is the Empire wreath always associated with the First Empire decorations.

Both the Colonial and the Empire styles are shown in candlesticks of silver and gold, but the plain glass sticks used so

much last season have entirely disappeared. Greek columns in both silver and gold are in demand.

The fad of the moment in both silver and gold is the loving cup, and the custom of passing this cup from guest to guest at various functions grows, germ and sanitary cranks to the contrary notwithstanding.

These loving cups come in a bewildering variety of designs and sizes. The simplest model is built on Colonial lines with three square handles. It has a satin finish and stands on an ebony pedestal. Next in price comes the Empire design, with its simple wreath, and from this point the cups soar in price and elaboration to massive affairs which cost several thousands of dollars.

One superb specimen of the silversmith's art is a cup which would spoil a check in four figures. The base is of ebony, upon which rests a cluster of grapes in dull silver. As the stem of the cup rises and spreads out into the bowl these grapes become gradually smaller and more highly polished, until they seem to vanish or melt into the highly polished satin surface of the plain bowl. This cup has two handles and is lined with gold.

All the better grades of loving cups have a substantial look, with a tendency toward repousse designs. Dull silver is raised on a satin finished cup and vice versa. Hammered copper loving cups are also shown, and these are lined with gold, though the more accepted combination is silver and gold.

Even the new born heir to millions receives his wee loving cup in solid silver or gold, which is presumably used to drink his health at the christening, but many of the social elect still hark back to old-fashioned mugs for babies. An offering in this line, which is marked \$50, is a mass of silver rosebuds, lined with gold.

A marvelous punch set is of gold and silver, curiously combined in an orchid pattern. The ladle's handle is a perfect orchid of gold, and each of the dozen gold cups is a great orchid. The set is displayed on an oval mirror with a gold frame.

The Menace of Low Shoes.

PERHAPS girls are more prone to recent interference when presented on the score of health than on any other ground. If the cause for this impatience remains inscrutable, it no less certainly is a fact. Yet it may be suggested, with all due deference to possible prejudice, that there is certain and great danger in the common habit of wearing low shoes regardless of weather. These older and sadly wise women who have bought their knowledge with a heavy price see their younger sisters tripping about on cold, stormy days in French-heeled "ties," and shake their heads sadly, remembering how they too learned by experience that high heels and damp feet were sure to work mischief to that marvellously delicate organism with which femininity is endowed. They are aware that the ankles are peculiarly susceptible to chill. They recall—one does—special instances when most direful illness has followed such rash exposure. A certain beautiful young girl lay on a bed—not of pain alone, but of torture—through her long-anticipated summer vacation, bemoaning when so much too late the deaf ear turned to warnings which the doctor sternly informed her, might have warded off disease. It was only "getting her feet wet," only a sudden chill. But the consequences were serious.—Harper's Bazar.

Trinkets for School Children.

THE opening of school brings to the mother a constant succession of small expenses, and while she talks wisely of her own simple equipment as a school girl, in the bottom of her heart she indulges a secret pleasure in outfitting the youngsters to the best of her financial ability.

For carrying books to and from school, especially for pupils whose lessons must be prepared at home, there is a strong sentiment in favor of a light weight dress suit case. They are of the same size as the suit cases offered in the juvenile departments, and are by no means cheap, but will last indefinitely if a child is careful. They will hold not only the books needed at home, but all supplies in the way of drawing materials, pencils, etc., and the daily lunch, which is quite essential if the school has one session, with a half hour recess at noon. The same size suit case can be secured in the lighter Japanese wickerware, but they are suitable only for girls, as they will not stand rough usage.

If the dress suit case is too expensive, a big net Boston bag is liked by the girls, but the boys cling to the strap.

Collapsible lunch boxes have given place to a more substantial article. For the boys there are boxes covered with black leather, which look like kodaks, even to the imitation shutters. The most popular lunch box for girls takes the form of a music roll.

A new combination pencil sharpener is now offered in a form which would delight any boy. It looks like a razor strop, and in one opening the pencil is revolved to cut away the wood. On another corner is a knife with an edge like a plane for cutting the lead to a moderate point, and the top of the strop is covered with sandpaper to bring the lead to a finer point for particular work.

Chairs of various lengths are offered to attach sponges, pencils and erasers to desks, and a pencil case, which should teach any child to be economical, has on one end a jeweled cap. When this is removed an eraser is disclosed. The case itself is quite long and is used to hold pencil stubs. With one of these a child can use up the pencil left-overs from father's office. Other boxes for holding pencils and supplies come in the form of big lead pencils, huge pens with gold points and wooden Indian clubs.

For the boy or girl who is attending business college there are offered small scales at 25 cents each, with a limit of a pound weight. The register is marked clearly—newspapers, boxes, letters and merchandise—and the would-be clerk, by using one of these, takes a practical lesson in mail order work.

Fountain pens have become so cheap that they are used quite generally by pupils in the higher grades and in business schools. This year a pen built especially for pupils is offered for \$1. For children in the primary grades there is a very neat panel holding a dozen crayon pencils. The panel marking, like that of a paint box, has the correct name of the colors.

A little economy, which every mother will find useful, is a careful marking of umbrellas and overshoes. A piece of white tape, with the child's name marked clearly in indelible ink, is the best way to mark an umbrella on the inside. A small piece of marked tape can be fastened in the heel of the overshoe.

