For and About The Women Folks

Inartistic Masculinity.

THE reflections of Miss Agnes Repplier of Philadelphia before a Chicago club of women on the "downfall of man," which she attributed to the lack of color and style in his clothes, are not enthusiastically received by her masculine admirers at home. Probably she drew conclusions from the Philadelphia style, which comes under her observation most frequently, and her revelation of a local condition at a distant city may explain the pained expressions of the critics.

"Miss Repplier," says the Philadelphia Ledger in melancholy tones, "has been stating her opinion of the attire worn by the other sex. The opinion is devoid of tendency to flatter. It is almost harsh. Indeed, it suggests Corelli in one of her morose moments. If only it were Marie! Then defense would be easy, and even a pleasure. But nobody with the gumption to write on one side of the paper only could be goaded into making an attack upon Miss Repplier. When she expresses an opinion, why there it is, to be acknowledged and respected. If so be this opinion gives man's selection of raiment the worst of it, and batters the frame therein, there is nothing for man to do but change his style or acknowledge that he is a walking affront to the artistic vision and feels so mean that he wants to crawl.

"That ladies have an advantage in the matter of dress is manifest. They are prettier, to begin with. Sculptor and painter express a preference for the masculine figure as a type of beauty, but this prejudice never has pervaded the minds of the laity. Women have a keener eye for color effects. Few men in purchasing a tie stop to consider how it accords with their complexion. They wouldn't know, anyhow. Such physical imperfections as women possess they conceal under flowing lines of drapery. What recourse has the bow-legged man or the one with knock knees? Absolutely none. In draperies he never could catch a car.

"A woman will put on her head a towering creation built up of the remains of songsters, a thing in itself hideous. She will wear a dress that squeezes her waist until above and below there is a breadth of deformity that argues actual pain. She will put on shoes with heels about the length and diameter of the human fingers, and as she limps along with studied grace will, with the hem of her skirt, sweep from the street papers, rags, cigarette stumps and bacilli. All this time she will look 'perfectly lovely,' and man, whose hat is a comfortable covering, and whose heels are built for contact with the pave, feels that she is superior. This is an intuition. He looks at the bills for her torgery, and his opinion is confirmed. This is a conviction.

"There seems to be no remedy. The male habit of wearing such clothes as the tailor and haberdasher supply is fixed. The male regrets; he can do no more. He, too, would like to be a beautiful being, a combination of harmonies, an entity pleasing to Miss Repplier and other critics less talented. He knows what he is, knew it before the essayist had rubbed it in; knows and grieves, but can't help it."

New Things in Stationery.

Note paper is back again, and those who always know the latest thing are asking for the square envelope. There also is a plaid paper that is used by the novelty seekers. It is cream color and in a broken, mixed plaid which is exceedingly effective. Another fancy is to have the monogram put in the right hand corner of the fourth sheet instead of the first. When it is on the first page it is in the left hand corner instead of in the middle, as formerly.

Addresses on envelopes are being revived after having fallen for a time into disuse. A few orders have lately been filled at the most fashionable stationery places in which they have been put in the upper left hand corner of the envelope instead of on the flap. The difference between this and a business envelope is, of course, that there is no "return" put in front of the address. Put in this place, however, it is more protection against loss of letters, as the address on the flap never seems to have any official importance and is as likely to be overlooked as not.

The house address on the letterhead in preference to the monogram or initials is greatly preferable when one does not care to have both, as the dignity of being a householder is worth proclaiming in these days of hotel life. Where a family lives in a hotel the initials of the head of the family are the official family letter head, while the wife and daughters use their own initials, each on her special stationery.

A compromise between a postal card and letter paper are the "cartes lettres" of the French, which are finding favor for short notes. They are shaped like an envelope, the letter part being written on the inside, with a gum around the edges for sealing purposes. These come in all styles and varieties, some of them opening out long and others containing extra sheets inside, while still others hold only as much as a postal card. At the less fashionable places where utility stationery is found a tablet can be found in cartes lettres form in cheap paper, the whole costing at some stores as little as 35 cents.

Cradles of Many Lands.

When a baby is born in Guinea all sorts of funny things happen to it. Its mother buries it in the sand up to its waist so that it can not get into mischief, and this is the only cradle it knows anything about.

The little Lapp infant is cradled in a shoe—his mother's. This is a big affair covered with skin and stuffed with soft moss. This can be hung on a tree or covered up with snow while mamma goes to church or any place where babies are not invited.

The baby of India rides in a basket which hangs from its mother's head, or from her hips, or in a hammock. In some parts the baby's nose is adorned with a nosering and in others its face is wrapped in a veil like its mother.

The Chinese baby is tied to the back of an older child.

The Mongolian infants travel about in bags slung on a camel's back.

In some countries the mothers lay their babies where a stream of water falls on their heads. This is to make them tough, which it does, unless the babies die as a result of this treatment. Another mother covers her baby's head with paste, while the Tartar baby is covered with butter.

The Turkish baby is salted—perhaps to keep it sweet—while the worst fate of all falls to the lot of the newly born children in Bulgaria. Their mothers put a hot omelette on the little ones' heads to make them solid and protect them from sunstroke. The Bulgarian baby does not like it any better than you would. He makes a great howl about it, but it is not a bit of use. His mother things she knows better about some things than he does, so he has to submit, which he does with a very bad grace indeed.

Curious Result of Overtidiness.

In the experience of a Pasadena (Cal.) woman who is confined to her bed with a strange and serious malady there is a warning for housewives who go to extremes in the matter of keeping their homes in order.

This woman, perhaps, is the most industrious broomwielder in Pasadena. From early morning until late at night she has made it her business as well as pleasure to fight dirt. She is called "pizen clean" by her neighbors, who assert that she sweeps her house before breakfast in the morning and again after the dishes are washed. Then she sweeps the walks around the house and even the bare ground in the back yard.

She has been known to sweep carefully the little grass plot that she calls her front lawn, because, as she says, the straws and dead leaves that are blown into it give it a disorderly appearance.

After the outdoor sweeping is done she goes back and sweeps the house again, just for luck. From the time she rises until she goes wearily to bed her broom keeps swinging almost constantly.

Several days ago, while she was sweeping her front room, she fainted. Fortunately there was someone close at hand to give her attention. She was revived, but promptly fainted again, and repeated the performance several times. Then a physician was summoned. At first he was greatly puzzled and confessed that her symptoms were unlike any he had ever observed before.

It took a careful examination to disclose finally the fact that the patient's heart had been displaced by her persistent labors with the broom. When sweeping it has been her habit to press the handle of the implement closely to her side in order that she might exert greater pressure on it. The constant pressure over the heart finally displaced the organ, but without any noticeable effect becoming apparent for some time. Finally the condition became so aggravated that the fainting spells followed.

The physician thinks that she may in time recover if she can be persuaded to give up her sweeping, but her condition is still serious.

Her Money's Worth.

The story is told in Harper's Weekly of a young married woman in Philadelphia whose husband is always impressing upon her the importance, especially in written communications, of brevity and coherence. "Always keep to the matter in hand," the husband is fond of saying, with reference to the propensity of his wife to wander from the subject when she writes.

Recently the young wife received from her husband in Chicago, he being on the first trip away from her, a telegram reading: "Are you all right? Answer, Blank Hotel, Chicago."

The youthful spouse, realizing that the situation called for an application of those principles of economy and directness of expression so frequently expatiated upon by her husband, was hard put to it for a while. The husband's intended movements were to be such that she could not write him a letter, so it must be a telegram that should answer his question. After a few moments in agitated thought she evolved the following, neither exceeding nor falling below the ten words she could dispatch for 25 cents.

"Yes, yes, yes, I am very well, indeed, thank you.

Versatility of a New Woman.

A notable specimen of the genus "new woman" has just struck Los Angeles. This personage combines the occupations of professions of a teacher in colored schools; an exhorter, fully licensed, to Zion African Methodist Episcopal churches; a nurse, with credentials, to the afflicted; a missionary to Liberia, sent out by the American Missionary board, and with ten year's experience in darkest Africa; a real estate agent, and a first-class bootblack—that's where she shines!

Miss Ellen Corinne Berkeley is this "new woman" and she has opened a bootblack stand at Front and San Pedro streets.

This is but a means to an end, says the woman bootblack. She is bound to return to Monrovia, Liberia, where her mission lies, she says, and the nickles and dimes which come to her in shining shoes she declares are to be used to pay her passage back to the land of her forbears.

"My heart is in the African mission work and I must go back," says Miss Berkeley, as she industriously shoves the bristle brushes.

"Is there anything to be ashamed of in my doing this work, if I do it well?" she asks.

"I am here because my physician says it is best for me to remain in southern California this winter and that I must live out of doors. Of course, I could do housework and I can cook, I tell you, with the best woman in the south; I might get work in half a dozen different lines of employment, but they all require that I be inside of buildings and I must live in the open air.

"At this work I can make my expenses and a little more, which I am saving to carry me back to Africa just as soon as my health will permit."

Ellen Berkeley has an interesting history. She was educated in one of the church mission schools of the south. Her native place is Louisburg, N. C. At an early age the girl showed much interest in religious matters and when only 9 years old she was licensed as an exhorter by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church.

Bishop Small, who died last January, was appointed her guardian and under his direction the little girl visited many of the churches of his denomination. The sight of the childish personage preaching the gospel caused much interest and it is said many persons flocked to meetings and large revivals were noted throughout the southern states among the negroes.

In 1898 Miss Berkeley was ordained a missionary and was sent out to Liberia by the American Board of Missions—the only colored person at that time in the Liberian mission field.

She went to Monrovia and from there worked back into the interior, laboring until her health failed. She then obtained leave to return to America and went back to North Carolina, where she assisted in the schools for colored people.

New Breakfast Food.

It was Tuesday morning. The clothes had been washed, dried and folded and common sense pointed to the fact that it was ironing day, but cautious Scandinavian Tillie, the new maid, was not going to make the mistake of going ahead before being sure that she was right. Before committing herself to the obvious task, according to the Youth's Companion, she poked her head into the dining room to say, appealingly, "Meesis, I skuld like to speak something." "What is it, Tillie?" "Skal I cook some flatiron?" asked Tillie, earnestly.

Novelties in Lamp Shades.

Attractive lamp shades in new designs are always desirable for all parts of the house, and especially for the drawing room and boudoir. Many of them are easily made at home and the work is extremely attractive because it may readily be completed and will show results which are really important in household decoration instead of being like the fifth wheel to a coach, as is the case with a lot of fancy work.

These shades are trimmed with narrow gold galloon, gold cord, gold lace, garlands of chiffon or ribbon flowers or small millinery artificial flowers, ribbon embroidery work, small French medallions, etc. The flowers used to trim them are all in pale, delicate shades, in accord with the subdued color effects of the shades themselves. The gilt trimming is narrow and should be sufficiently tarnished to resemble old gilt, and is most inconspicuously put on; in fact, the entire effect of these new shades is one of extreme daintiness and delicacy.

Pink, yellow and pale green shades are particularly popular in these designs. A pink shade of this kind had two rows of narrow dull gilt braid around the top and two around the bottom of the shade above the net ruffles. The ruffles were edged with lace. So was a little ruche of the net at the top of the shade. The shade was festooned with a garland of pink and white sweet peas made of chiffon, and pale green ribbon for vine and leaves.

Among the candle shades the new things seemed to be principally white satin, peau de sole, liberty silk and net, trimmed with delicate colored embroidery. Some of the prettiest designs showed four little wheelbarrows full of flowers, made of the delicate ribbon work. Baskets having gilt lattice work for the lower part and with the upper part filled with bright tinted flowers or fruit in ribbon work are also most attractive as ornaments for candle shades.

A green shade was edged with gold and green fringe and above this was a ruche of the white net. Around the top of the shade also was a fringe of gold and green, which hung down over the shade below the ruche which finished it around the top. The shade was trimmed with a garland and bowknots of gold cord and narrow lace sewn on full in garlands and bowknots. In the curves of the cord were four medallions made of lace and embroidered with gilt thread. A yellow shade was garlanded with yellow sweet peas and had four French heads placed at equal intervals about midway between the bottom and top of the shades. Each of the heads was surrounded with a border of narrow gold lace and inside that with a border of tiny sweet peas made of yellow and white ribbon and embroidery. The sweet pea garlands around the shade were also tiny and made in the same way. Narrow gold lace was used to border this shade at top and bottom.

In contrast to these delicate shades, which are meant for use with rather small lamps of Dresden, glass or French gilt, in French or equally delicate drawing rooms or boudoirs, are to be found some striking new floral shades, which can be used in more handsome and showy apartments or in large halls.

New Things in Jewelry.

Womankind has gone daffy over the bangle, reports the New York Sun. Bangle beauty is to be had in any number of variations as to size, shape and decoration. While the bangle is usually round it may be oval or square. These bangles take on yet more finishes than shapes. The small round bangle with the plain bright finish is the most usual.

But there's the polished finish.

The faceted finish.

The antique.

The Roman.

The rose, the red and the green finish.

Then there are open-work effects, which are mostly jeweled. The jeweled sorts are not confined to these, however. In some bangles they are set in solidly. Square, octagonal and diamond shaped jewels rival the more usual round and oval forms. There may be a single stone or the bracelet may be jeweled all around.

Perhaps the most beautiful bangle is the engraved one.

And the belle of the engraved ones is an exquisite affair. It took a skilled engraver over a day to put on the design, which is as delicate as it is distinct. It has all the mellow look of an old brocade in the rare gold tint and is a veritable chef d'oeuvre. This particular example could hardly be improved by jewels. It is perfect.

Other engraved examples are in green gold, rose gold and the gold that shows real red in its shadings.

In the jewels diamonds, pearls and sapphires are very prominent.

A handsome engraved bangle shows a sapphire in the center, while small diamonds at intervals keep up the sparkling adornment.

Among the semi-precious stones the peridot and aqua-marine are first choice. The delicate transparent green of the peridot is lovely. So is the clear blue sparkle of the aqua-marine, marine water evidently being a very different thing from the Schuylkill brand.

A square amethyst in a rose-gold bangle is beautiful. Three small diamonds flank it on each side.

A twisted wire bangle shows a little love of a baroque pearl in each loop. In another pearls are alternated with turquoises. And so it goes, nearly all jewels being represented.

Some men's gold signet rings have secret locket tops, and the same idea is applied to gold sleeve links, with oval tops opening in like maner to hold a tiny photograph.

All sorts of odd links and knots are seen on fancy bracelets.

A hairpin jar of crystal, of octagon form, has a cherub design on the silver top. For unique effects that of wearing uncut jewels mounted as pendants or charms is gaining favor.

Toothbrush stands have the frame at the tops fitted with glass caps, made to slide over the brushes they accommodate as a means of protecting them from dust.

There is a fancy just now of having pebbles mounted, not as heirlooms, but for their beauty! Mounted in silver or gold, being duly polished, they may be made useful as sleeve links.

The narcissus is one of the prettiest designs seen on silver toilet sets, being a conventional arrangement in filling the space assigned with the natural form of flower and leaf.

For the debutante is an engagement book of pompadour design, or hand-painted with rosebuds or forget-me-nots, and finished with gold clasps and a pretty gold pencil attached by a slender chain.

Leaves from Fashion's Notebook.

Small our new hats are to be, whether we wear derbies, plateaus, sailors or other shapes. They are to be redeemed from insignificance by trimmings, and especially by bandeaus, covered with huge bows and feathers.

There is a return to the finer straws, Leghorn, Tuscan, crin, etc. There is also a tendency away from the one-color hat, which we have been wearing. Color combinations are the rule. One sees, for example, a pale blue hat with trimmings of violet, green, and perhaps a touch of pink. Some of the arrangements are charming.

For everyday wear no petticoat is better than the pretty plaid mohairs offered in all good shops. They are very nicely made and are quite as attractive as the more expensive taffetas. Of course, they wear twice as long. Taffeta petticoats are the dressier and will always be preferred to any others, but for service the mohair are highly recommended.

CLEARANCE SALE OF FURNITURE, RUGS AND CURTAINS

This sale has been immense for us, and hundreds of old friends have been kept and hundreds of new ones made. We are going to cement this friendship still closer tomorrow by placing on sale some more bargains in room-sized rugs, leather couches and rockers and lace curtains, scan over the list. We herewith spread before you and you will agree with us that there will be a great many wonderful saving opportunities for you in this sale tomorrow. It's mutually advantageous this clearance sale. It gives you the best house furnishing bargains of the season. It closes out all broken lines for us.

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TURKISH ROCKERS

We believe our fine stock will sustain our oft repeated assertion that we carry an exceptionally varied assortment of high quality FURNITURE. We would advise early choosing, as at these prices this stock will soon disappear.

$26.50 genuine leather Turkish Rocker, solid oak frame, tuft back, plain seat and arms, for..... 20.00

$27.00 genuine leather Turkish Rocker, plain seat and back, very finely finished, fringe around bottom, for..... 21.00

$31.50 genuine leather Turkish Rocker, Sleepyhollow design, with wing sides, very heavy fringe, for..... 23.50

$32.00 genuine leather Turkish Rocker, polished oak base, for..... 24.00

$33.00 Turkish Leather Rocker, polished oak base, for..... 24.50

$36.50 Turkish Rocker, very fine design, with heavy fringe, for..... 27.50

Others, regular price up to $90.00—same reduction in proportion.

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$60.00 beautiful design mahogany frame Couch, genuine hand buffed leather and very best of workmanship, for..... $43

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$37 Rug, 10-6x12-8..... $30
$40 Rug, 10-6x12-9..... $30
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$30 Rug, 9x12-0..... $25
$28 Rug, 8-3x12-0..... $22

WILTON VELVET

$28 Rug, 10-6x11-10..$22.50
$34 Rug, 10-6x12.....$26
$35 Rug, 10-6x14-0.....$27
$30 Rug, 10-6x14-9.....$23
$25 Rug, 8-3x11-6.....
$33 Rug, 10-6x12-4.....$27
$30 Rug, 10-6x12....$22.50
$25 Rug, 8-3x11.....$19
$28 Rug, 9-13x1.....$18.50
.....$20

BRUSSELS RUG

$30 Rug, 10-6x12..... $20
$33 Rug, 10-6x13-6..... $27.50
$15 Rug, 9x10-6..... $10
$22.50 Rug, 9x12..... $18
$21 Rug, 8-3x10..... $15.75

AXMINSTER RUGS

$32 Rug, 10-6x10-6.....$25
$36.50 Rug, 10-6x14-1..$30
$38 Rug, 10-6x13-6.....$32
$45 Rug, 10-6x13-9.....$34
$23 Rug, 9-0x12-0.....
$45 Rug, 10-6x12-0.....$35
$35 Rug, 10-6x11-0.....$27
$24 Rug, 8-3x9-3.....$18
$28 Rug, 8-3x12-0.....$20
.....$18

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