OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

A Woman Who Directs Funerals—Another Who Is the Wife of a Diplomat. Fashions and Occupations of Other Women,

WIFE OF THE CHILIAN MINISTER.

One is always sure of a pleasant welcome at the Chilian Legation, and it is a delightful place to go because of its art treasures and exquisite decorations. Red of the richest Pompeiian dyes prevails in the halls and dining room, but the drawing rooms are done in shades of yellow, with chiffon curtains under yellow silk. All the pretty perishable furniture was purchased in Paris. One of the cheery features of the Chilian Legation is the birds. Canary birds are singing, fit to split their throats, in cages all over the house, in every room. No wonder they sing, though, for perennial Spring abounds in the Legation, with palms and roses, lilies and ferns showing an ever tender green.

Mme. Gana, the presiding genius of this charming foreign home, is a very beautiful woman, and the proud mother of six children. To say that she

MME. GANA.

is proud of them does not half express it. The Ganas are very proud of the eldest son, who is a musician, his fond mamma will tell you, and plays on several instruments, displaying great skill.

"I am not the least interested in 'pol-e-tics,'" Mme. Gana says, with an attractive accent. "I must must make my home beautiful and comfortable for my husband, and I must entertain my husband's friends. I must be a good mother to my children. I am but one woman, and how can I do these necessary things if I take it upon myself to do the unnecessary ones? I like to entertain, and to meet our friends, and to make them welcome. It is the proper thing for me to do, and they expect no more. I could do no more."

Mme. Gana has the art of entertaining down to a point of perfection, and in another year will have a daughter in society to assist her. Miss Gana is just seventeen, tall and slender, a perfect blonde, with big blue eyes and fair hair. She is a charming girl, bright and beautiful as an opening bud. I asked her if she liked Washington.

"Oh, yes," she responded quickly. "Better than any place else in the world, next to Chili. Chili, our home! Beautiful Chili! It never is so cold nor so hot in Chili as in Washington, and there all our relations and friends are. Of course, I long for my beautiful home sometimes, but if not Chili, then I like to live in Washington. Next Winter I am 'coming out,'" she said, with an entrancing smile, "and that will be so delightful in Washington," she added. "All the people are so lovely, and make such good times for the 'buds.'"

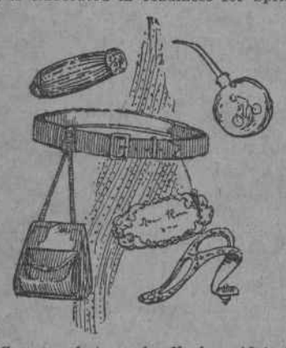
Miss Gana never tires of talking about her brother, the musician, and her affection for him is simply exquisite in its brooding tenderness. Like her mother, Miss Gana has no ambition to shine outside of her home. She is highly accomplished, but unaffectedly girlish in her manners, which are perfect.

The Chilian Minister was accredited to Washington some ten years ago, and then recalled to go to another post of duty. As he and his wife were very fond of Washington, they were sent back about two years ago. They entertain handsomely all during the season, and Mme. Gana is one of the best loved women in the foreign colony in Washington, because of her gentle, courteous ways and splendid hospitality. She is much attached to Washington, as so many years of her married life have been spent there. It is like reading an entrancing story to hear her talk of Chili and its subjugations and conquests, its mountains and its tiny valleys, its charming people and its delightful climate. The women of her country, she says, do not care to intrude in politics or to mix up in Governmental affairs. They are gentle voiced, and have the languorous habits of the Spanish, from which country Chili freed herself. Mrs. Gana was Miss Margaret Edwards, of an English family living in Santiago.

NOVELTIES FOR BICYCLISTS.

Silver equipment for the wheel has become as essential to the aesthetic rider as is the outfit of her dressing table. If they be gifts or mementos, they are prized the more, but no cyclist of ambition is debarred from possession so long as her purse is well filled.

The latest novelties are the clips and bar handles. The oil-can, while comparatively new, is elaborated in readiness for Spring



and Summer, but can hardly be said to be entirely novel, and the belt and bag are all friends in a new dress.

The most popular leather is lizard skin. The more costly sorts are used by the few, and a fascinating combination of pinkish-gray monkey skin, with what is known as rose gilding clasp and chatelaine, is pretty enough to tempt dollars from even a meagre pocket. Nevertheless, the alligator, that is both tasteful and of moderate cost, has the greater number of adherents.

The peculiar feature of the bag, as it is now shown, is the double pocket, which allows of caring for the handkerchief without opening the clasp. Each of the various objects makes an ideal gift, and with the coming of Easter wheelwomen are looking for outfits that shall mean sentiment as well as intrinsic worth.

MARIA GARRISON, SEXTON.

There is a woman in New York who holds the position of church sexton. Her name is Mrs. Maria Garrison, and she has been sexton of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, on West Thirty-fourth street, for seventeen years. She firmly believes that the Lord led her to seek the position she holds in order to make plain to her the form of worship most pleasing to Him—that is, the close communion Baptist, or, as Mrs. Garrison smilingly said, "the good, old-fashioned, hard-shelled Baptist." The present church building, a plain brick high-stooped edifice, bearing the inscription, "Meeting House of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Erected A. D. 1850," is for sale, the church membership scarcely warranting so large and expensive a "meeting house." When the sale is effected a new church building will at once be erected and Mrs. Garrison will assume its sextonship. She will be obliged to leave her present home, for she and her husband, a Grand Army veteran, live in pleasant rooms—to which is adjoined that city rarity, a large, sunny back yard—under the "meeting house." Mrs. Garrison is a slight, delicate looking woman and delegates some of her duties, but it is impossible to see her and her little home without a conviction that these are well performed under her supervision.

A MUTUAL ADVANTAGE.

A number of Boston boarding house keepers have started the system of selling tickets to table boarders, which is a mutual advantage. Each ticket, which, of course, is paid for when received, is good for twenty-one meals; that is, seven breakfasts and the same number of dinners and luncheons. The ticket is punched each time that the boarder gets a meal, and if he stays away one day is good for the next. Thus the landlady is always sure of her pay, and the boarder of getting what his money entitles him to.

HINTS ON FASHION.

A Sketch of Miss Ida Conquest's Pretty Bodice Worn in "Bohemia."

The calypso-clad maid of the Egoist borders her white gown with rose, and cunningly adds to rose the tender green of the first long grasses. Thus George Meredith hints of the ribbons that adorn Clara Middleton's costume. In the modern costume, beckoning pennants of blue, pink, green and yellow wave from waistband and shoulder knots. Ribbons have made their place in poetry and romance, yet never were they more ideal in their significance than this year.

That pretty affectation of mannishness which becomes the end of the century maid she displays in braces of satin and moire. She hitches up her skirts with the colors of the rainbow, tied in a knot on her shoulders. She trails strips of color down her skirt and allows them to play hide and seek with the wind. She dots herself

over with rosettes like posies. She consumes nine yards of ribbon in decorating herself, and gives hope and comfort to the ribbon weavers.

The illustrations disclose her pranks with these color bands. With what varied excuses she calls attention now to her trim waist, now to her slender back, again to her dimpled arm, now to her pillared neck by planting a rosette, as an eighteenth century belle put a beauty spot beneath her sparkling eye, or above her roguish lips.

It is pretty to see in the heavier white gowns of serge duck or drill, cut with the severity of covert cloth and cheviot, what a mocking air of lightness is given by the thin chemisettes of chiffon, which is the very sublimation of texture. The coats of these costumes have adjustable revers of moire and satin. The revers preserve their own form strictly, but enlarged, preserve a margin by which they may be fitted to the coat, which is chiffon over an under-

lying tint. The chiffon pushes its way through, bubbles over, encroaches upon and overwhelms with its foamy tenuousness the fabric that, in fact, has the right of way.

At first there was a prejudice against these, as that of men to collarless shirts, and union effected by studs. But convenience triumphed. There remains a prejudice, however, against sets of revers, allowing the wearer to come forth one day in black moire, and another in white satin. There seems something immoral in this pretence of two costumes when but one exists. Adjustable revers, however, are a concession to cleanliness, not the abandonment of a principle.

Miss Ida Conquest in "Bohemia," at the Empire Theatre, shows a pretty taste in dress. In one scene she wears a pale green silk, whose plain skirts have a coquettish swing. The bodice starts out upward as if meaning to be of Nile, but is overcome by pale green chiffon surging over pink, the green side asserting itself above in a charming little shoulder cape. From under

this stick out double pieces of silk above tight chiffon sleeves of green wrinkled over pink, and then suddenly expanding at the lines, which are straight.

The slashed waist is again one of the caprices of the season. Of this a pretty model is shown. It is a modest model. On other gowns the body is frequently made up of strips, its integrity sacrificed to the underbody elbow in green silk frills flirting above pink chiffon frills. The final amusing touch, as the French would call it, to Musette's chic costume, is a narrow black ribbon belt, slightly pointed in front, and with long floating ends in the back.

Biscuit color is a fashionable tint. Biscuit bears a subdued relation to fawn. Its amiable neutrality allows for striking tints in apparent opposition. Such is bright yellowish green satin yelled somewhat in cream guipure.

STYLE IN OLD CLO'.

The Curious and Money-Making Device of a Shrewd Widow.

To most people the idea of the second-hand clothing business is associated with a small, ill-smelling shop in a shabby part of the city, presided over by an equally ill-smelling family of Oriental descent, any member of which will drive a bargain whose equal in sharpness shall not be found outside of Petticoat lane or the back streets of Cairo. But there is at least one clever New York woman who has raised the business to a fine art, and who conducts it with dignity and excellent style. It will be far from disclosing the identity of this ingenious woman to say that she resides in a fashionable locality on one of the streets running east from Central Park. Her "store" is a handsome three-story brownstone fronted house, and there is not the faintest vestige of any sign about it to indicate that it is anything except a private residence. Carriages frequently drive up in front of the house, and if the visitors do not go inside and make lengthy calls, a neat little woman will come out from the basement door and hold a short talk with the caller in her carriage. Other visitors just come on foot to the house, but whether on foot or in carriage, all the visitors are women-folk, for the house is a second-hand clothing store, and the only clothing dealt in is that of women.

The head of the establishment is a well-educated, well-connected widow, whose shrewd common sense led her to put into practice an idea that there might be a way in which second-hand clothes could be bought and sold without making it a musty, fusty business of more or less shady reputation. For her source of supplies she decided to go to the very swellest people she could get hold of, and though it took my ladies some time to find out that there were other and more remunerative ways of disposing of their cast-off gowns and discarded wraps than to their hand-maidens and tiring-women, and that the process of sale had nothing more unpleasant about it than a few minutes' quiet talk with a pleasant-mannered lady—having found these things out, they soon supplied the clothes dealer with al the stock in trade she wanted.

For her customers the widow decided, with equal shrewdness, to try first among the actresses. So a quiet hint was dropped here and there, that if any stage toilette was needed for which a positively new frock was not an absolute necessity, it might be well to pay a visit to a certain brownstone front and ask for Mrs. So-and-So. And when the visit was paid and the visitor was shown an array of handsome tea gowns, which some one had wearied of because of the color of the ribbons; swell dresses, thrown aside because of a wine stain, and gorgeous wraps hung away because they were two inches shorter than the acme of fashion called for, she began to see that this was a style of second-hand clothes dealing that was a little different from that about which she had heard.

The dealer made two rules, and it is part and parcel of her success that she has kept unswervingly to them: First, never to buy anything that could be called "old duds," or that was completely out of fashion; and second, always to set a fixed price on what she offered for sale. These two facts the visitor was not slow to appreciate, and when she found that there was a good dressmaking and remodelling department to the establishment, it generally meant a purchase. The news was not long in quietly spreading, and many a stage wardrobe has been handsomely replenished from the convenient emporium up in the Sixties. The actresses have told their friends, too, and the dealer has no cause to complain of customers. Nor has she to go begging for her stock, for the fashion of selling discarded wardrobes has grown quite as extensively as that of buying them. It has spread out of town, too, until now the dealer receives commissions to sell from the owners of fine, but discarded raiment as far beyond the city limits as Philadelphia and Washington.

It has been a money-making business to the widow, and she is firmly of the opinion that there is always a way to grow rich in New York, if one can only think of it.

THE GOLDEN RULE.

"Yes, mem," said Nora, defending herself against the charge of extravagance in having given $5.25 for a funeral carriage. "I had to do it. I was under a great compliment to those people, and it would have been a big shame if I hadn't done this much for 'em. One good turn deserves another."

CARDS OF CEREMONY.

Cards of condolence are sent a week after a death occurs. One card is left for a family—no more.

Cards of congratulation should be left in person, and if the family are at home the visitor should go in and express her good wishes.

Cards of courtesy should be sent with all gifts, such as books, fruit and flowers, or any trifling remembrances sent by friends to friends.

Cards of ceremony are generally used when an invitation to a wedding is given, or after an acceptance to a dinner—in any case where the card is required to do duty for formal entertainments.

Cards should be sent after a change in residence, or an absence abroad.

Cards should not be used when a regret is necessary. A note is the good form.

At an afternoon tea or reception every one should leave her card with the servant on entering. If unable to attend, she should write a note the next morning giving the reason.

The "at home" card is sometimes used for receptions, with an additional name or names of the ladies to which the reception is given. Very often a separate card of a lady assisting will be sent; either is correct.

To write "regrets" or "accepts" on a card is very bad form. A note is the proper way in declining or accepting invitations.

When an engagement is announced, leave a card.

After a marriage takes place leave a card.

On the return of a friend from a long journey leave a card.

After a death in a family leave a card.

Strangers in town should send their cards with their address to friends, and a call should be made on them as soon as possible.

In cases of P. P. C. the card is generally sent by mail on the day of the departure.

When a card is left for a stranger who is stopping at a hotel, "For Mrs. ——," should be written on the top of the card.

The correspondence card is no longer used, except as a business message.

To ask for a sick friend, leave a card with the words "To inquire" written across the top. Expect no reply.

Cards of condolences need not be answered. Cards of courtesy or congratulation should be replied to promptly.

Announcement of births should be a small card, with the child's name in full, tied with a bow of white ribbon, at the left-hand corner. With it should accompany the parents' card, and mailed in double envelopes of medium size. A card of congratulation should be sent to the mother in return.

When a young lady is to be married she leaves her card in person about four weeks before the event. Her mother's accompanies her own.

NO TRANSPORTATION FOR GOATS.

A woman out West was moving from one place to another some time ago, and numbered among her possessions that she took with her a goat. The animal was placed in the baggage car, and tied to a chest. During the journey he regained his freedom by nibbling the rope, after which he proceeded to regale himself on the leather straps with which the brass checks were fastened to the various trunks in the car. When the woman's destination was reached the door was opened and the goat jumped cheerfully out, having just completed his work. The baggage master was filled with consternation when he discovered the checks, without a single exception, lying upon the floor. The most hopeless confusion resulted, and it was more than a week before some of the trunks reached their owners. The railroad company has, in consequence, made a rule that in future goats are to be denied transportatio over its lines.

AN ECONOMICAL ENTERTAINER.

A certain thrifty Philadelphia housewife used to boast that she was able to make one jar of brandy peaches serve for several tea parties. The secret of it was that she canned the peaches when they were green and only partially cooked them. In consequence they were always hard, so that when an unwary guest attempted to cut one with a spoon it generally flew off on to the floor. After the company had departed they were gathered up, washed and returned to the brandy syrup, where they remained until required for the next party.

A NOVELTY CORSAGE.

The bodice that can be called especially odd in these days, when oddity is the keynote of almost everything, must indeed be striking. One of this description which is out of the ordinary is of brown canvas cloth, with big squarish lapels of light blue satin, veiled in a net-like pattern of brown silk. The cuffs are of the same, and the vest is blue satin as well, with tiny tabs of brown velvet arranged, military fashion, in two rows. A flaring collar lends a picturesque air. The jaunty effect obtained is not unlike an Eton jacket. At the sides it is cut away, showing more of the satin with brown finishings.

MRS. CURRAN, UNDERTAKER.

It is interesting to know what leads either men or women to take up a business or profession. When a woman becomes an undertaker, curiosity is indeed pardonable. In response to this inquiry, Mrs. Joseph J. Curran, who is carrying on a successful business, said:

"When my husband died a little over a year ago and left a mortgage of $2,500 on his place of business, it was held by several people, who threatened to foreclose unless I would pay. After months of hard labor I finally succeeded in paying it. It was the happiest moment of my life when I lifted that mortgage, and I can now safely say that I owe no man.

"While my husband was living I assisted him daily in his various labors, and therefore, you see, it was nhsodrnot xuNa not so hard to manage as it might have been had I never entered the shop, and yet at first, when I was left alone, I was doubtful as to whether I should continue the business, but I finally picked up enough courage to proceed. My children had to have food, so there was no other way out of it, and, as I should have to work, no matter what occpuation I sought, I believed it would be much better to continue the business.

"Every one of my three children, two of whom are now living, learned to sit and stand in a coffin, my time being so much taken up with my work that I would sit them at one end of the coffin while I was trimming the other end.

"I now employ four men, and the demand for my services is so great at times that I am compelled to seek outside help.

"I have been very fortunate in business, although it is to a great extent run on the instalment basis, and I can say with truth that I have lost very little through these business methods, particularly from the poorer class of people," she replied when asked if she had lost money by dealing in this way.

"Although my occupation is really considered a serious one, I find that it has its cranks. The people who patronize me usually are as fussy when purchasing a shroud as to the fit and style ,as they would be when buying a Parisian garment, and sometimes, to please them, I have to make them myself."

Personally Mrs. Currin is a charming woman; trouble seems to sit lightly on her, and she says, despite her care and business worries, she is happy and contented in her work. The appointments and furnishings of her fashionable establishment display the touches of her womanly hand, in connection with all the latest appliances known in the undertaking line.

SHOPPING AS A PROFESSION

A Congenial Business That Women May Go into without Capital.

A man would never choose it, or if he did would not call it by that unpretentious name. Not he. It would be "buying on commission," or some such big-wig appellation. But the women who do it for other women and all the world are glad to write themselves professional shoppers, even when their gains are scant and their tramps long and weary.

That is not the case with more than half of them, for here, as everywhere else, "there is room at the top." The professional shopper, you must understand, is one who goes a-buying with other people's money, taking no penny of it herself, but getting her profit out of the commission which all the shops allow to registered purchasing agents. This is, upon dry goods, 6 per cent; upon groceries, furniture and jewelry, 10 per cent. Naturally, the shop men are not over fond of a class of purchasers who thus shorten their profits, but allow the percentage rather than go without the trade.

The professional shopper gets customers the best way she can. All the more prosperous of them advertise, especially in the high-class weekly papers with a big circulation in the country and remote villages. They also send out circulars, often writing to a village postmaster offering to give some desirable trifle—a pair of gloves, a pipe or bit of bric-a-brac—in return for a list of substantial names. Then with a first order from any locality the buyer incloses cards, asking the receiver if she has found satisfactory service, to distribute them among her friends. Thus a good trade is often worked up from a mighty insignificant beginning. Needless to say, though, that in such cases the buyer has spared no pains to give those she buys for the utmost their money will supply.

There is high art in that. Though upon a general average of prices one good shop is much the same as another, each of them has its specialty, to say nothing of special bargains, and she who knows how to take advantage of them can make two dollars often do the work of three. Then the special sales furnish another opportunity truly golden to the purchasing agent, particularly if she has a trifle of money ahead—and so is able to buy independent of orders in hand. In such case she scans eagerly each advertisement in the columns of the morning or afternoon papers, and is among the early birds who always gather in the cream of special offerings. These she lays away against the time when she shall have an order for that particular sort of thing. When it comes she fills it from her private stores—upon whose purchase price she has already received a discount—and charges the customer the current rate for it. Thus she makes often 50 per cent, in place of the modest 6 of her less fortunate competitors. In this business, as in most others, capital tells; it is to her which hath that the biggest profit is given. Notwithstanding, there is no reason to doubt that the professional shopper is a godsend to many another of her sex.

A HEARTLESS ARRAIGNMENT.

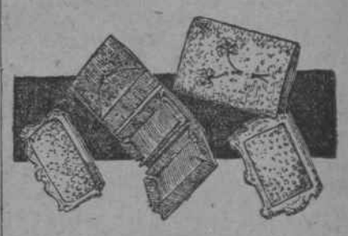
"Talk of irrationality of women!" said the woman who was managing the amateur theatricals, "the men beat them on their own ground sometimes. The Harvard boys gave a performance here not so very long ago, when they charged $2 for seats, which were not reserved, but went on the plan of 'first come, first served.' They then evolved the brilliant idea of selling admission tickets for $1, not reflecting that, as there were no coupons to show, there was nothing to prevent a $1 person from occupying a $2 seat. If he had done it, what a howl there would have been of 'just like a woman's idea of business!' And the other day at one of our rehearsals we had a lot of college boys who were to represent a crowd. They came in their ordinary suits. 'This is a Winter scene,' said the coach, 'and I want you to look as though it were cold weather; you must wear heavy overcoats at the performance.' One youth looked troubled. 'I haven't a heavy overcoat,' he said; 'I don't know what I'll do, but,' brightening, 'I'll put on an extra-heavy undershirt!'"

In the last century it was customary when a woman died for her friends of her own sex to act as pall bearers.

FASHIONABLE SKINS.

How They Are Used for Civilized Purposes.

In the contest between the lady and the snake the lady has won. She no longer fears the snake; she wears him. He contributes to her personal adornment. In an uptown window he lies, not only dead, but stuffed and mockingly posed to show what he had been, while the belts, pocketbooks, card cases and silver mounted bags with which he is surrounded show, when civilized, what a useful creature he may be. This object lesson in natural history is furthered by stuffed lizards and notably by the armadillo, which looks like a miniature rhinoceros studded with jewels. There are hundreds of feet of python skins inside. These come from Auam, in the kingdom of Siam. In that country boa constrictor is game. The native who



runs across a python opportunely kills him and sells the skin to the nearest trader, as the Western farmer sells his corn or mink skin at the cross-roads for sugar and tobacco. The skin, when it reaches the European market, if the snake and the native hunter have not had too tough a fight, is worth $40. A python skin is from eight to eleven feet long. On the wrong side it looks like a piece of cotton cloth. On the right, when tanned, the markings of clear white gray are so beautiful that if the snake could see himself it would console him for being dead.

But the Java lizard shows the lovellest of all the gray and white markings and is in the greatest demand. In its native waters it is not rare, but distance and difficulty in obtaining fine specimens make it costly. It, with the totally unlike elephant hide and monkey skin, make the most fashionable of all purses and card cases. The beauty of the lizard, however, is its own, while the others have need of the dyer's art. No artificial methods could well produce the delicate blending of gray with white; the best that can be done is to give the heavy rough hides a peculiar color that defies description. It is warmer than gray, it has a tint of pink and it can be called neither. Made into a bag, however, with mountings of the new rose gilding it would tempt the necessary $18 from any woman's pocket.

Purses and card cases of the same leather are in demand. Many of the former are made in queer shapes, like old-fashioned satchels, with clasps, that are leather covered. More ornate specimens, however, show silver and gold. The latest design is the most convenient of all and a boon to the seeker after the stray coin. The change pocket opens flat. At a glance we can see all that it contains; both gloves and patience are saved. In plain monkey skin it can be bought for $7. Elaborated its price depends upon the style and decoration of the finish.

A novelty devised for Easter brides is of pure white leather, calf or any fine grained skin. On the card case is a spray of orange blossoms in enamel that is an exact reproduction of the natural flowers. They are said to be in demand, but the bride's reluctance to making her state public suggests the question as to their appreciation. The four-leaved clover that brings luck, in a case of soft gray Java lizard, would be more permanently serviceable and sufficiently handsome to satisfy the most lavish giver.

YOUTHFUL PERTINENCE.

There is a story that just after the marriage of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt and Mr. Belmont the little Vanderbilt boy chanced at some youthful festivity to meet Mr. Belmont's little girl by his previous marriage, who now goes by the name of her mother's second husband.

"How do you like your new papa?" she asked politely. "You know I am interested because once upon a time long ago he used to be my papa."