

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.



HOW THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH WILL BE PRESENTED AT COURT TO-MORROW.

THE most august social function in England is "a drawing room," as a reception by the Queen or her representative is called. In it all the rank, dignity and fashion of the land are concentrated, and toward it the eyes of all those who have social aspirations are raised. As the London season has now reached an advanced stage, a drawing room at this time is usually important. That season is the most pompous and magnificent known to civilization, and, according to some, the most oppressive. At any rate, it is considered by many Americans worth a large amount of time, money and exertion. A drawing room is the culmination and the epitome of the most impressive characteristics of the London season.

It is interesting both on account of its social importance and as a show. The persons to be seen on exhibition are not only princes and princesses and men and women of rank and fashion, but also the holders of high political office, the working rulers of England.

The ceremony is interesting to the political philosopher. It means that fashionable society is created and maintained by the Government and to a great extent identified with it—a state of affairs utterly foreign to American institutions. To an Englishman it appears very right that the Government should recognize society and that a man should gain social position by holding political office.

As a matter of fact, it is easier for a poor and clever man to enter high society in England, or to have his wife or daughter presented at court, than it is for such a man or his family to be in New York's Four Hundred. But the American who cannot enter that charmed circle may truthfully say that he doesn't care, and that he is a citizen and a sovereign, and as good as any of them, while the Englishman whose family is not presented at court must admit that the badge of social inferiority is officially placed upon him.

There is, however, a great class of persons—in fact, the better half of humanity—who do not worry about these abstruse questions, and to whom a drawing room is and always will be an event of transcendent importance. All women are said to be monarchists at heart, and there are few in England and among those Americans who have much time to spend in Europe, who do not desire with single-minded and single-hearted earnestness to be presented at court.

At the next drawing room there will be one American presented on whom all the attention of British society is now centered. She will not be presented as an American, but as an English Duchess. It is almost unnecessary to say that this is the young Duchess of Marlborough. Her court dress has already been described in the Sunday Journal.

For a woman of the Duchess's rank there is, of course, no difficulty in making arrangements for a presentation at court, but with others it is different. Theoretically, the wives and daughters of gentlemen of independent estate and of members of the older professions have the right to be presented. To others it is granted as a royal favor.

The Lord Chamberlain and his numerous staff arrange the details of a drawing room. The applications for presentation are sent to him and the lists made out of those to be received. Persons of rank and high officials have precedence. Although a drawing room is intended generally for women, there are always a certain number of men whom British etiquette requires to be presented at court on their appointment to various positions under the Government.

The person whose name is placed on the list for the next drawing room receives an impressive batch of cards from the Lord Chamberlain, which must be presented at various stages, beginning with the gates of the palace and ending near the royal presence.

To a young girl the presentation is a very great event, for it is an official announcement to the world of her debut in society. The making and trying on of her court dress are as important to her as a similar preparation for her wedding. Certain details of this costume are prescribed by the Lord Chamberlain, but within the limits fixed by His Lordship there is a great field for skill and extravagance on the part of the dressmaker. It must have a very long train—about twelve feet—and be décolleté to a certain and considerable extent, which is also one of the details decided by the Lord Chamberlain. For a debutante its color must be white. Other invariable if not absolutely compulsory features are a long veil, like that worn by a bride at a very ceremonious wedding, and a big bouquet.

The trying on of the dress is a source of infinite pleasure and anxiety. Then the debutante must rehearse the presentation ceremonials, and finally she is photographed in her new gown. It may also be added that, after the presentation there is usually an afternoon tea, at which all the friends of the debutante can inspect her and her dress.

A woman is always presented by one who has already had that distinction. A mother often presents her daughter. The two start early in the afternoon, with their décolleté gowns, endless trains and big bouquets, for Buckingham Palace. Once arrived in its vicinity their carriage may wait in a long line. In that position they are subject to the impartial criticism of a great gathering of newswomen, tramps and others. Near the gates there is an escort of Life Guards, mounted on black chargers and wearing glittering helmets, with white plumes, breastplates and other adornments. Inside strains of music from the band of this regiment are heard.

At the gates one set of cards is delivered by the pilgrims. At the door of the palace, guarded by beefeaters in the costume of the reign of Henry VIII., they

must produce another set. Once away from their carriages, the women find themselves crushing one another in a long series of great rooms. Toes are trodden on, dresses torn and feline amenities exchanged.

At last the throne room is reached. An official calls the name of the person presenting and the person presented. At this stage they must let go their trains, which they have hitherto carried only under their arms, and treat to their skill in steering them. They courtesy on entering the room and advance till they face the Queen or her representative. Then the elder courtier again and kisses the royal hand. The debutante follows her example. Both back away from the presence until they reach the door on the other side of the room. Then they courtesy again, and all is over.

As they pass through they catch a glimpse of the scene depicted in the Sunday Journal. The Princess of Wales represents the Queen. Nearest to her are the Duchess of York, the Princess Louise of Wales, and other members of the royal family. Then come the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and other princes. Seated around are Lord Salisbury, Lord Cross and Mr. Goschen, representing the Government, and also numerous officers of the royal household—noblemen, admirals and generals. If the picture were larger we should see members of the Honorable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, on guard with pikes.

The Queen has personally held but few drawing rooms since the death of the Prince Consort. The Princess of Wales is usually her representative. The function whereby a man is presented at Court is called a levee, and at these the Prince of Wales invariably officiates.

There are persons who do not have to pass through the ordeal described in order to attend a drawing room. They are said to have the entree, and consist of members of the Government, of the Diplomatic Corps, and persons of high rank.

2,000 STOLEN LETTERS.

The Work of a Wicked but Industrious English Letter Carrier.

The English Post Office is universally recognized as an institution of wonderful efficiency, but from a reported incident it would appear that a few thousand or more letters and things go astray.

George Twen, a postman, was charged with stealing letters and parcels. The prisoner was arrested on Wednesday, and when a search was made by the police of the stables in the George Inn yard where he keeps his pony, 2,000 letters and parcels were found, addressed to all parts of the United Kingdom. The parcels contained, among other things, butter, funeral wreaths and clothing. The stoppage of letters is supposed to have been going on for some time, as some of them are dated 1891, and mice had built in the papers. The prisoner was remanded.

This is the Way to Cast the Fly.

Fly casting constitutes one of the greatest joys of angling. Although open water is, of course, preferable, it is not, however, absolutely necessary. Any hundred-foot clear air space will answer the purpose of the beginner, although the water practice enables one to use the regular cast of flies and leaders much sooner. While sawed shots for weights are to be used in lieu of flies and leaders in the first efforts, the latter should as soon as possible be substituted, for the line does not handle the same when they are not attached.

In fly casting a carefully made and especially adapted sectional split bamboo rod may be used, and the reel should be attached to the butt. With twenty feet of line in the water or upon the lawn, as the case may be, and with the rod held at an angle of about forty-five degrees in front, the angler is ready for the start of the cast. Let the line be now worked out eight or ten feet further. This is done by drawing the line from the click reel with the left hand, and then by the springing, willowy action of the rod, which action at the same time draws the slack line through the rod guides, the line is lifted upward and overhead to the rear, making the beginning of a very important feature—the back cast.

The upward, overhead and backward motion of the line by the spring of the rod is produced by the motion of the angler's forearm and wrist only. The rod should be stopped in the backward movement when it reaches an angle of ten degrees in the rear, and as the line reaches a point in the rear at almost right angles to the extreme tip of the rod the angler should again, by a wrist and forearm movement, throw the rod forward to the angle of forty-five degrees in front, thus producing the cast. The next cast should be made by drawing the line from the reel as before and making exactly the same casting motions, and so on until the desired distance is attained.

The back cast often puzzles beginners. In attempts to recover this back cast too soon and start the line forward before it has had time to straighten out in the rear many mishaps are experienced. The recovery must be made at the right moment, and this is the most difficult problem of solution. This feature will be made easy in time by care and practice. The proper action of the rod, which may be accurately constructed and especially adapted in weight and length for fly casting, will be greatly impeded if the forearm and wrist motion is not properly executed. Its proper execution is the very foundation, as it were, of the art of fly casting. It is not a weak or relaxed motion, but a very rigid one. This motion brings out the action of the rod, and if properly executed produces the desired distance casting, and the forearm is even auxiliary to the wrist motion, which latter throws the fly and line upward and backward. The pump-handle motion of the whole arm should be most carefully avoided, for although quite natural for a beginner, satisfactory results can never result from its use.

THE SECRET OF HEALTH AND BEAUTY REVEALED BY A FRENCH NOBLEWOMAN.

THE French woman of fashionable society employs art and coquetry to heighten her natural charms with more success than her sister of any other country. She is able to do so, moreover, without being ridiculous or offending against good taste. One of the results of these efforts is that the French woman is often able to retain her attractiveness to a comparatively advanced age.

Some of the most valuable secrets of the French woman's toilet are revealed in a book entitled "The Bondoir," by the Vicomtesse Nacla, a member of high Parisian society. She gives a great number of recipes for increasing and preserving beauty, all of which she has used herself or studied in operation. While prodigal of recipes for lotions and perfumes, the noble authoress does not omit to impress the truth that the general care of the health and the person is the first essential to preserving beauty.

According to the occupation of the preceding evening or the condition of the atmosphere, says the Vicomtesse, a woman's skin is dry or moist, rough or soft.

If one has been exposed to the wind, or one's skin has an irritable tendency, one must not use soap, but the following paste:

SOAP PASTE.
 Honey..... 50 grammes
 White soap..... 40 grammes
 Benzoin..... 10 grammes
 Spermaceti..... 25 grammes
 Sifted..... 10 grammes

Mix these substances when cold. Warm the paste and let it dry. In the evening, before going to bed, spread on the face a light layer of cold cream made according to the following recipe:

COLD CREAM.
 Oil of sweet almonds..... 200 grammes
 Alcohol..... 50 grammes
 Spermocet..... 25 grammes
 Tincture of benzoin..... 15 grammes

Then to preserve the prettiness of the skin already acquired by unctious of cold cream use this lotion:

BEAUTY MILK.
 Rosewater..... 200 grammes
 Emulsion of sweet almonds..... 25 grammes
 Emulsion of bitter almonds..... 5 grammes

On the other hand, if the weather is humid, and if the skin has been weakened and stretched by the heat of a bath, it is necessary to give it tone, and the following vinegar may be used:

VINEGAR.
 Tincture of benzoin..... 50 grammes
 Strong vinegar..... 30 grammes

Allow this to steep for eight days and filter it. Put a few drops in a little water and moisten the face night and morning.

Cold water is one of the best agents for giving firmness to the skin. It is especially recommended in damp or warm weather.

Freckles are often inflicted by Nature on the finest skins. They are a blot on the beauty of some charming women, who are compelled to expiate in this way the shortest stay in the country or at the seaside. Here is a pomade which is guaranteed to be a perfect shield against freckles: Whip to a cream the whites of three eggs and an equal quantity of oil of sweet

almonds. Spread this on the face when going to bed.

If the freckles are old and inveterate a more energetic treatment is necessary. Professor Hardy advises the use of the following lotion:

FOR FRECKLES.
 Bichloride of mercury..... 4 grammes
 Sulphate of zinc..... 8 grammes
 Camphored alcohol..... 10 grammes
 Distilled water..... 200 grammes

Mix this with three parts of water and apply with a sponge. It causes a burning which disperses the freckles. Many advertised remedies for freckles are dangerous.

Wrinkles are among the most redoubtable troubles with which maturing beauty has to deal. By energetic measures a woman may resist them. The secret of doing this successfully is to attack them when they are but faintly developed. The following is an excellent prescription:

WATER OF YOUTH.
 Boil 50 grammes of pearl barley in half a pint of water until a jelly is formed; sift and add 25 drops of tincture of benzoin. Wash the face regularly with this lotion night and morning. The good work may be completed by either of these two lotions:

POMADE OF HERB.
 Extract of fig bulbs..... 60 grammes
 Suetine honey..... 15 grammes
 White wax..... 30 grammes
 Rosewater..... 12 grammes

Rosewater..... 100 grammes
 Botic acid..... 2 grammes
 Tincture of benzoin..... 10 drops

The sea air, as we all know, produces a tan which may give a charming woman the aspect of a mulatto. While blondes do not suffer greatly from this cause, brunettes women are often much disfigured. An admirable remedy is:

HONEY SOAP.
 White castile soap..... 200 grammes
 Honey..... 50 grammes
 Sifted..... 25 grammes
 Sifted..... 15 grammes

Mix in a mortar; then melt in a bain-marie and strain.

For light attacks of acne the Vicomtesse recommends a light diet without spices or sauces, washing with carbonate of soda, friction with astringent pomade. A pinch of powdered sulphur at each meal will do much good.

The following is a cure for blackheads: Green soap..... 50 grammes
 Sifted..... 100 grammes
 Essence of lavender..... 1 gramme
 Essence of bergamot..... 1 gramme
 Benzoin..... 50 grammes

After washing the skin with warm water rub in this liniment; then squeeze out the blackheads. Afterward rub the skin with vasoline or oil of sweet almonds.

Pastes for the complexion, says the Vicomtesse, are only successful if their presence is imperceptible, and they must also be able to stand the test of a slight rubbing.

She tells us that it is frequently necessary to use this innocent means to conceal the effects of fatigue, a slight indisposition, or unusual paleness. Before everything, it is a woman's duty to please. To

whiten the skin she recommends the following recipe, known as

EAU DES BAYADERES.
 Essence of bergamot..... 120 grammes
 Essence of citron..... 80 grammes
 Essence of neroli..... 80 grammes
 Essence of petit grain..... 30 grammes
 Balm of tolu..... 30 grammes
 Essence of rosemary..... 15 grammes
 Essence of rose..... 20 drops

Put a few drops in a glass of water. This lotion refreshes the skin and whitens and embellishes the complexion.

For winter she recommends the following preparation:
 Oil of sweet almonds..... 50 grammes
 Spermocet..... 15 grammes
 The best wax..... 10 drops

Melt in a bain-marie and put in a pot. Use every evening.

The authoress holds that rouges may only be used in the evening. She declares this to be absolutely unharful:

EAU DE VENUS.
 Powdered cochineal..... 4 grammes
 Powdered lake..... 4 grammes
 Alcohol..... 12 grammes
 Rosewater..... 100 grammes

The Vicomtesse advises women to weigh themselves regularly and thus be prepared to guard against fatness, that great destroyer of beauty. Obesity may develop in some particular part of the person, and in that case it is no less unseemly than when it is general. Those who have adipose ancestors and relatives are specially warned.

Black coffee is of great value in the treatment of obesity. The nervous excitement it causes is conducive to thinness. The Vicomtesse prescribes a cup of black coffee and a small piece of toast as a breakfast for fat women. Butter, fat of meat, milk and farinaceous foods are, of course, inobedient. Lean roast meat, fresh green vegetables, especially sorrel and tomatoes, are useful.

It is no less ungraceful in a woman to be too thin than to be too fat. A very fattening preparation is made as follows: Persian salep..... 15 grammes
 Powdered cocco..... 60 grammes
 Potato starch..... 45 grammes
 Rice flour..... 60 grammes
 Sugar..... 60 grammes
 Vanilla..... 1-3 ounces

Two or three spoonfuls of this should be taken in a cup of milk every morning.

With advancing years a woman, even if she does not grow unpleasantly thin of fat, finds her flesh losing its firmness. Especially in this the case with the bust. An old recipe for improving the condition of the latter and one familiar to the bondholders of the Faubourg St. Germain consists of 200 grammes of olive oil and two whole Portugal oranges. These substances are boiled in a bain-marie for four hours. The preparation should be applied every evening for two weeks.

During this time it is desirable to give up the daily bath and only take three or four baths a month. Various preparations may be put in the water. One bath for hardening the flesh is made by dissolving 500 grammes of gelatine in two litres of warm water.