

The Chronicles of Cholly Knickerbocker.

SOME call it plumpness. Some call it adiposity. Some call it embonpoint. And some call it fatness. Call it any name you please, and then reflect how the swell dames and damsels of our aristocracy look upon it. Yet, when in the course of human events, it comes upon them, what can they do? Ah, well, here you will find some chronicles of ladies who rebelled and fought nature. Read—and weep.

New York.

tributed to that universal complaint, the "grippe." But in this case the latter complaint is not at fault.

All beautiful women have one horror, and that is of becoming stout.

To-day the costume of the period demands a perfect figure, and a woman will keep her proportions, come what may, rather than give up. Never has the lacing been so tight, and the latest fashion plates show women with impossible wasp-like waists, which seem to be the admiration of those who claim to dress well.

The tight tailor-made costumes which show the figure to perfection, demand the slimmest proportions. The very slightest hint of an approach to embonpoint is regarded as a misfortune.

Life in the open, violent exercise, and walking and driving are among the old remedies. But as health frequently gives fat, they are not infallible.

More recently there have been introduced systems of hanting, which are much more severe than those recommended by the London physician who gave this course of treatment its name.

The patient starves herself absolutely, avoids all nourishing foods, begins early in the morning with the automatic horse and rowing machine, and puts herself through a course of training such as is given to a prizefighter or an athlete when about to enter a race. These men have strong constitutions. Every pound of fat is changed into flesh as hard as iron.

But with delicate women it is different. They absolutely break down under the severe regimen, and ruin their health. Their lives during the season, with luncheons, receptions, dinners, the opera and dances and late suppers, are not in accordance with the way laid out for the fighter or the rower or the racer.

Even if they eat nothing or little, the hours are such as to do away with all the good which might be gained by the training. It has been whispered that among the beautiful women of fashion who have tried hanting this Winter have been Mrs. Clarence Mackay and Mrs. Henry Sloane.

Mrs. Mackay has a tendency to embonpoint, which is odd, because it is not hereditary. Her mother is not stout, and has a splendid figure, and Willie Duer, her father, has kept at the same weight for years.

Mrs. Mackay has reduced herself this Winter a number of pounds, and instead of the rather plump little matron, she now possesses all the attributes of one of those whom the modistes are delighted to call extremely chic.

It was an absolutely unnecessary proceeding.

Mrs. Mackay was a very beautiful girl, and is a beautiful woman. Her peculiar hair and her gorgeous complexion would attract attention anywhere. Her face is always animated, and possessing, as she does, the combined wit of the Travers and Duer families, even if she were not fair of face and perfect of form, she would be one of the most popular married belles in society.

I do not think that angularity is becoming to her, and she does not look as will this Winter as she has in past seasons.

There has been much besides hanting to have made Mrs. Sloane pale and thin this season. She has passed through a fearful ordeal, and even those who have not agreed with her have admitted that she has been very brave, and has acted in the very best of taste.

Mrs. Sloane also feared embonpoint. She has been noted for her figure, and for the beauty of her shoulders as well as for the slenderness of her waist. She has been more conspicuous for the elegance of dress than any other woman in New York society. She has always possessed a girl-like figure, and at no time has she grown positively stout.

Mrs. Sloane has exercised, and lived a great deal in the open air, and has only taken certain foods. Two or three times during the Winter she has broken down under the hard training. Her health at the present time is quite impaired.

But she has managed to reduce herself by several pounds.

With the slim woman as a model, the very fashionable set in society are hardly any one of them possessed of any superfluity of flesh. The great beauties of society are all slim to thinness. One glance around the parterre at the Opera House will hardly reveal one stout woman, be she young or be she chaperone.

The deduction is evident. The consequences are not those of a healthy state, and one hears constantly of dinners and entertainments being postponed on account of the sudden illness of the hostess or of some prominent guest.

Bowling and badminton go on to the end. The last badminton contest of the Badminton Club will take place on Saturday, and after that there will be an extra handicap for the memorial cup presented by Miss Clarke, for which the men are to compete. The cup is given in memory of Miss Clarke's brother, who was one of the founders of the club.

It has been all laid at the door of the influenza, which is a convenient excuse.

I do not know what you would call the week—in sufferably dull is about what it has been. Today is Passion Sunday, and next Sunday is Palm Sunday, with Holy Week following it.

Entertainments of all kinds have ceased, and one is beginning to see the dawn of Easter in an infallible sign—the retirement of the lecturer and the music talker.

Even the sewing classes are on the wane. The O. N. has not been a great success this year. Mrs. Frederick Neilson, who used to take such an interest in it, has not cared very much for its welfare, and then, in her same set, Miss Leary has the Thursday class and Mrs. Archie Pell the Tuesday.

The class organized by Mrs. di Zeraga has been a booming success. It is an all-day session, and on Monday the Archbishop looked in, so there was no dancing and some very interesting talk on prison reform instead. To-morrow the class meets at Mrs. William Perry's, the mother of Mrs. Lorillard Ronalds.

After much sensational snoring and trumpeting the John Jay White party on St. Patrick's evening resolved itself into a reading by Seaman McManus, of "Through the Turf Smile," and some very original songs, and a quiet but very delightful Lenten affair.

At Miss Broese's last night the Carbonites had a musicale, with just a little dancing afterward. In the season these would have been only accessories to a pleasant evening. But in the dull

London.

March 17.—The week has seen a larger exodus toward the Riviera, but enough society people still remain in town to keep things lively. Among the fashionable women longed to and known in New York society, and who have followed the flight of the Queen, are the Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Arthur Butler, the Duchess Leeds, Lady Essex, Lady Charles Beresford, Mrs. Ronald, Mrs. Astor, of New York, with her daughter, Mrs. Ogilvie Haig, and Mrs. Arthur Paget. Of great social functions there are none happening.

The Court is at Cliveden, and the most notable of entertainments in the absence are the polo receptions. American women are not conspicuous at those. The Duchess of Devonshire, who now in the Riviera, gave two salon parties before she left, at which the best known of the Americans were present, and at Lady Lansdowne's there are always a few. When the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough open their new town house it is expected to be the centre of all the best and brightest of American society, either settled here or birds of passage.

Letters from the Court at Cliveden refer to the probable reception by the Queen of President Loubet toward the close of her stay there. The awkward incident which marked the passage of the Prince of Wales through Paris, and which caused the Prince to be not returning his call, has been explained. M. Loubet did return the call, but as he had not announced, according to rule, he would be at the Prince's hotel, he found the Prince out. His Royal Highness, who is now on a stickler for etiquette, has expressed his concern at not meeting the new President, and M. Loubet wishes as soon as possible to show by extra courtesies toward the Queen that he has the Presidential manners.

The great charity bazaar and the Women's International Congress are among the near fearsome and interesting society. It has been stated in your dispatches that Lady Mary Sackville and Lord Delaware are in charge of the American part of the bazaar. It will be a rare centre of attraction. Both are strikingly handsome women, with wonderful reddish golden hair. They have ranged to wear pale green gowns with large picture hats. Lady Mary Sackville is a sister of the Duke of Devonshire. The Duchess of Abercorn, the Londonderry and Lady Cadogan have draped their Irish stall, over which they preside, all year long.

The programme of the Women's Congress is yet quite settled, but enough is known of it to foretell that it will be one of the greatest social events of the year and will bring together a mingling of society women, with some earnest philanthropists and some cranks. The Duchess Sutherland throws open that magnificent mansion, Stafford House, for receptions. The Aberdeen entertains, Mrs. Creighton, wife of the Bishop of London, gives a garden party at Pull Palace, and the Grosvenor Crescent Club gives a conversation.

Among visitors heard of as coming from America are the Rev. Jane Shore, Miss Susan Anthony, Miss May Wright Sewall. The Congress will be one of the biggest and will probably form a separate clique, some of which will take it work with some infusion of the social gay offered to them.

One of the most interesting debates will be on "Women in Dramatic Art." Mrs. Kendal, who is to preside, will open the discussion, and page will be read by Miss Genevieve Ward, Mrs. Bohm Tree and some women of less importance. Felix Moscheles, the artist, or Mrs. Moscheles, will give "At Homes" to those Congress ladies who may be interested in art. The female scientist who propose to read papers, the Christian Heald and other more or less qualified lady doctors wish to be heard from a long list not yet reduced to practicable bounds. There is a large and active Hospitality Committee already at work, who are arranging for the reception of delegates as guests in town and country houses also, where they may rest after the fatigues of the Congress.

Since Miss Gladys Wilson was presented at the second Drawing Room she has appeared at several evening parties and rapidly obtained recognition as one of the loveliest girls of the season. Her style of beauty is somewhat in contrast with that of her sister Enid and of a better type. Gladys outshines her sister. A graceful and slight figure, a nearly perfect type of face, an almost dazzling complexion are among the perfections that have made her at once spoken of as leading beauty.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Stanley have now upon possession of their new country seat, Fox Hall, Surrey, recently the property of the famous American revolver shot, Mr. Walter Umana, in the neighborhood of Furze Hall there reside Conan Doyle, Mr. Grant Allen, Sir Frederick Lock, Mr. Richard le Gallienne and the famous game hunter, Mr. F. C. Selous.

A well deserved honor has just been bestowed upon one of the most accomplished of women artists, Mrs. Elizabeth Stanhope Forbes, who recently elected an Associate of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colors. Mrs. Stanhope Forbes, though she has taken up her abode permanently in Britain and is married to an Englishman, was born in the Dominion, and in Canada she received her first lessons in drawing. When she went to New York and became a member of the Art Students' League and the pupil of William Chase and Mr. Carroll Beckwith. Then she came to Europe and studied for a Munich, afterward painting in Britain and at Newlyn, in Cornwall.

At Newlyn she was destined to make a very long stay indeed, for there she met Mr. Stanhope Forbes, to whom she was married in 1889, and at the picturesque little Cornish village the artists have since resided. Mrs. Forbes was one of the very few women artists in the English nation to whom medals were awarded at the Paris Exhibition of 1889, and her pictures gained for another medal at the Chicago Exhibition of 1893. The new Associate and her husband, Mr. Stanhope Forbes, A. R. A., are at present enjoying a well deserved holiday, sketching in the Pyrenees.



Mrs. Clarence Mackay and Mrs. Henry Sloane Are Among the Society Ladies Who, in Their Struggle Against Growing Stoutness, Entered Upon a Diet That Almost Imperilled Their Health.

season their advent has been heralded weeks beforehand. Now that all the details of the Hammond-Stoane wedding have been arranged, it will be seen that it is not to be an elaborate affair.

Miss Lila Stoane will be the maid of honor, and the bridesmaids are Miss Edith Hall, who looks so much like Mrs. John Jacob Astor; Miss Knowlton and Miss Barnes, cousins of the bride; the bridegroom's sister, Miss Hammond, and the two very young girls of the Vanderbilt family—Miss Twombly, who may come out next Winter, and Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, who is now about fifteen years old and the youngest daughter of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish has returned to New York from her trip to Florida. Harry Lehr has stopped off at Baltimore. Mrs. Fish will be in mourning for several weeks for Mrs. Hamilton Fish, whose sad death is greatly regretted. Mrs. Fish will go abroad in May.

CHOLLY KNICKERBOCKER.

New Spring Dresses Worn by Six Prominent Society Women.



MISS LENA MORTON. 5163

Miss Lena Morton is wearing an effective street costume just now of that new reddish-violet tint called prunes. The material is ladies' cloth, and it is made with skirt and Eton coat. The skirt is trimmed with wavy bands of black satin, arranged in three groups. They adorn the skirt at the bottom, near the knees, where it begins to flare, and halfway between the waist line and the knees.

MISS EVELYN BURDEN.

Here is the most effective of all Miss Evelyn Burden's new Spring costumes. It is a creation of fawn color barege over light blue peau de soie, the tint of the silk showing plainly through the filmy barege. At the bottom of the clinging skirt are three flounces which produce an odd color effect. The barege flounce falls over one of cherry silk beneath which is a flounce of light blue.

MRS. CLARENCE MACKAY.

One of young Mrs. Mackay's most stylish street costumes is of black ladies' cloth. The skirt is perfectly plain and cut in the new clinging fashion. It is made with a drop skirt of dull rose silk. The jacket fits the figure as if moulded to it and exaggerates the long waisted effect so fashionable just now.

MRS. T. SUFFERN TAILER.

Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer has a touch of bright about her newest walking gown. It is one of the new trimmed tailor made costumes. The material is a light weight broadcloth, nut brown in color. The close fitting skirt is trimmed with perpendicular bands of stitched black satin. These bands outline the front breadth of the skirt, decorate the sides and also the back.

MRS. BURKE ROCHE.

An effective black gown worn recently by Mrs. Burke Roche was curiously trimmed with steel. The skirt was of black ottoman silk, gray satin faced cloth, appliqued with ecru showing the cord plainly. It was cut in the prevailing clinging mode. A black mousseline de soie and a French lace ruffle, both the same depth, trimmed the skirt at the bottom, giving it a soft, billowy effect.

MRS. C. ALBERT STEVENS.

This is Mrs. C. Albert Stevens's most effective Spring costume. It is an imported gown of steel. The cloth bodice is made with a white empierement wrought with the ecru lace also has over the corsage white arranged kerchief fashion.