

# INTERESTING TOPICS FOR WOMEN, BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN

SOME OF THE PICTURES WHICH WON PRIZES AT GILBERT'S REGENT STUDIO EXHIBIT.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY.

### Mrs. Florence Ives's Clubment Has Become a Well-Established Fact.

The last and most successful thing in clubdom is the Town and Country Club, headquarters, No. 12 East Twenty-second street. There is no name on the house, a graven monogram on the plate-glass door nothing to acquaint the passer-by with within flourishes a real, live, luxurious club where only ladies are members and visitors. This club is unique and practical. Unlike other ladies' clubs, it is neither for social nor literary purposes, nor is it for the promotion of any theories. It might be called "The Waiting and Resting Club," for it is intentionally a rendezvous for members who wish to meet by appointment, and a charming nook in which to catch an hour's rest amid shopping expeditions and duty calls. A tidy maid answers the door bell and politely takes charge of all wraps, umbrellas and packages. The large drawing room is artistically and substantially furnished. Great comfort chairs and cosy divans invite the weary to rest. Well-chosen pictures adorn the walls, and the air of the place is that of a well-regulated home. There are dressing rooms, and a writing and a reading room, where stationery and the latest journals and periodicals of the hour are at the members' disposal. Telegrams, messages and express packages may be sent from there. The members rustle in and out, meet their friends, take a fragrant cup of tea and a light luncheon, discuss the latest news and gossip, and, in truth, indulge in the same



Miss Bessie Ashton and Miss Norris



Photograph by C. M. Gilbert N.Y. & Wash. D.C.



Miss Conkling

## TRAMPING AS A VOCATION.

### The Assertion That Women Are Vindicating Their Independence in This Way Seems to Be Unfounded.

Statistics from New England and This City Prove That Hard Times and Intemperance Have Not Lowered Their Standard.

It has been confidently stated that the experience of New England went to prove that women were adopting tramping as a vocation. The inference appeared to be that, not content with appending M. D., Ph. D. and D. D. to their names, alert women had now inspired to add vagrancy to the list of available occupations. The Journal immediately set investigations afoot and has spared no pains to collect authentic material. As a result it is able to entirely refute the slander and to contradict the statement that tramping is included among women's aspirations. The first field of research was this city. Here nothing could be learned to justify the report. Police magistrates and charity organizations alike denied the charge. Few women vagrants came under their notice, and of tramps, recognizable as such, they had no knowledge whatever. Nevertheless the spirit of inquiry had been stirred. If tramping had become another opening for women it was desirable to be informed of the fact. Therefore, New England itself was made the ground of research, but only with the result of wholly disproving the charge.

In 1886 Massachusetts statistics showed one female to every ten male tramps in the larger communities, one to eight in the smaller. In response to inquiry the Inspector of Institutions asserts that he does not consider the proportion as large now as it was then shown to be. At the Chardon Street Home, Boston, the assertion is that "they are receiving no more applications than usual." The clerk of the Overseers of the Poor of Boston "has noticed no difference at all." The Provident Association declares that "this winter fewer applications than usual have been received from tramp women." Not one authority can be found to substantiate the charge.

On the contrary, Mr. John J. McCook, of Trinity College, whose knowledge of the whole subject of vagrancy is as complete as any in the country, is of the opinion that no ground whatever exists for considering that there is any tendency among women to swell the ranks of either vagrancy or drunkenness. He says: "The statutes of Connecticut, and very likely those of Massachusetts, except women from the operation of the Tramp law, which means here that they can be sent to jail for vagrancy, but not to State prison for tramping. A possible reason for this exemption is the extreme infrequency of tramping among women. But that of itself is an interesting and curious phenomenon, because there are rather more women than men in the world.

"The apparent explanation is the very small percentage of females among our drunkards. But this in turn requires explanation, for a favorite theory of some of our scientific people is that men are driven to drink largely by the depression of poverty and of miserable home surroundings. Yet here are women, who suffer as much from the first and more from the second, and whose very sex exposes them to a third and perhaps still more formidable cause of depression, keeping away from saloons and persisting in sobriety."

A NOBLE ACQUAINTANCE. She was very proud of her husband's titled friends. Two of his old college chums were dining there one evening, and one of them chanced to mention Baron Munchausen. She looked up brightly. "Oh," she said, "Charley knows Baron Munchausen!" And silence fell.

HE KNEW HIS COMPANY. A Southern woman tells the story that her grandfather, who was a great player of solitaire, was once asked by a flippant young man the reason of his preference for the game. "I like it, sir, because I always know that I am playing cards with a gentleman!"

## FOR THE HOME-MAKER.

### Description for a Green and White Luncheon and How the Effect May Be Obtained.

Some Suggestions for Interior Decorations and What May Be Seen in an Uptown Studio.

Stiff, white swiss, the kind little girls used to wear on important occasions, such as confirmation and commencement days, makes charming curtains for unpretentious homes. The curtains may be edged either with rather stiffly fluted ruffles of the muslin or they may have soft frills of cheap white lace. With the trimming of the swiss the curtain proper has a small "rolled" hem to which the ruffle is whipped. With the lace an inch wide, fat, a feather-stitched hem is permitted. White cotton rope is preferable to ribbon for holding back the curtains, both because of its simplicity and its washable properties.

There was a wise woman who gave a luncheon the other day—a green and white luncheon. She did not boast possession of green and white embroidered linen, so she used real asparagus fern instead. Asparagus fern in more delicate than maiden-hair and as hardy, for luncheon purposes, as the ordinary rock fern. The wise woman tucked it close to the edge of her white linen centre cloth. On each of her white doilies she fastened a piece of invisible stitches, and the effect through clear glass finger bowls was charming. Just inside the line where the plates were to lie she laid a border of the vine along the tablecloth. Then she added a big glass punch bowl with asparagus fern and starchy white narcissus blossoms, and was voted an artist by her guests.

When inconsiderate ancestors have failed to provide you with heirlooms in the line of silver candlesticks for your dinner table, try the effect of the little Doric column candlesticks that sell for a quarter apiece. They are creamy white, and therefore "go with" most color schemes. They are not tall enough to interfere with sight across the table. Their design is artistically correct. When they form two small triangular groups at the ends of an oblong or oval table, or when they stand one in each corner of a square table, with their proper accompaniments of candles and shades, they are very effective.

Fig preserve commends itself to those who like semi-medical food. It is said to be an aid to digestion. To make it, take a cup of dried figs, chop into bits, and set on the fire with enough water to cover them. When the mixture is soft and jelly-like take off the fire and stir in the yolks of two eggs, thoroughly beaten, and a wineglass of brandy. Mix thoroughly and use either as a jam with bread, the filling for layer cake, or as plain preserves.

There is a studio uptown which might be an object lesson to the ordinary, prosaic home-maker, if she could but see it, because of the way in which common things are utilized and made beautiful. It contains a few valuable pieces of old lustre ware which are put, as their worth and age merit, on a high shelf. But the modern imitation of gold lustre is not scorned. Small pitchers of the shingle style, such as East Side merchants display in tubs on the sidewalks before their stores, are used—not for cream or water, but for purple flowers. Velvet-petalled pansies of the deepest purple are massed in small jugs of imitation lustre. The first sprays of purple lilac and wisteria nod from the big pitchers. The effect of the purple blossoms against the unrelieved gold of the cheap little jars is exquisite.

A FREAKISH PLANT. The roots of the common fern known as the "Brake" present a beautifully delineated hieroglyphic, representing a spread eagle. It is said that Linnaeus, while resting beside a rocky bank in Lapland where the Brake grew in such profusion as to form a canopy over his head, chancing to find one of the stems a little below the earth found to his great surprise that it presented a miniature pencilling of the Imperial Eagle. He called the plant Pteris aquilina, which has ever since been its scientific name.

## NOW COMES THE STOLE SCARF.

Now that the fur collar and the feather boa are retired from active service, chignon and mousseline de sole scarfs are making their appearance. The ruff of black gauze with waving ends has been popular, but it has a rival in the stole scarf.

The stole scarf, as its name implies, falls



half way down the skirt from the shoulders. It is purely decorative, and careful investigation fails to reveal that it has any effect in protecting its wearer from chilly winds. But it is charming, and so its success is assured. It is of chiffon, black or white. It is embroidered and has Honiton applied upon it. To give it still more glitter and grace, it is often spangled with gold or silver. When the breezes blow too persistently to allow it to hang loose in its original form, it is tied in a loose bow having but one loop and two ends. For reasons which only the arbiters of style know, but which are doubtless weighty, it is decreed that double loops are entirely out of the question with stole scarfs.

## PROFOUND REFLECTIONS.

An elderly New York gentleman, having occasion to expostulate with her daughter, remarked to him: "Those last claims that you brought me were dead."

"Madam," was the answer, "we all must die!"

This was disconcerting, but not more so than the reply made to the same lady by another tradesman, to whom she happened to say: "I have lived in this house for forty years." He responded: "That is nothing to eternity."

He saw a woman preacher in a street car and supposed her a man. She wore a coat, shirt, Alpine hat, stock, collar and cuffs. There was only one womanly thing about her. When she wanted to use her handkerchief she couldn't find her pocket!

## WOMEN AND ATHLETICS.

The last new thing in the cycling world is the Virginia reel on wheels.

At the Michaux Club, that very swell club for the very smart set, the bicycle dance was first introduced, and such pretty women as Mrs. Arthur Rotch, Mme. Bettini and Miss Bessie Bradhurst have taken it up and made it quite the vogue.

Every Tuesday and Friday evening the club meets to ride, and the Virginia reel on wheels follows the usual drill, in which one "follows the leader," who gives the members a pretty lively half hour in following him through circles and semi-circles and various geometrical figures, with here a sharp detour and there another, and all done to lively music.

After the drill the evening winds up with the Virginia reel, in which eight couples take part. Figures of a more intricate character are being arranged for the fancy dress ball which the Michaux Club intends giving before it breaks up for the season.

Now that Yale has been winning laurels at basket ball, it is expected to challenge the Bryn Mawr girls to contest, as they are famous at the game and play it in season and out. One of the many beauties of basket ball is that it can be played in the gymnasium or in the field, on any kind of ground, in a small lot or a large one, whether smooth or uneven. It has been played in a 12 by 20 gymnasium and in a ten-acre lot. Basket ball is only about three years old, having been invented by Mr. James Naismith, instructor in the Y. M. C. A. training school at Springfield, Mass.

Among well-known women in Brooklyn who are interested in providing athletic exercise for working girls are Mrs. Samuel Bowne Duryea, Mrs. G. H. Prentiss, Mrs. Ide and Mrs. Burnham. Associated with other ladies, they have opened a gymnasium for girls at the rooms of the Y. W. C. A., where for a nominal sum a girl may exercise her muscles every evening in the week, and for the modest sum of 5 cents any woman, whether or not a member of the gymnasium, can have a needle or spray bath.

The rather novel pastime of sprinting has a few feminine devotees, and once a week, if you happen to stroll in the right direction and at the right time—i. e., from Fifty-ninth street up the western side of Central Park and about high noon—you may see eight or a dozen pretty girls flying along as though pursued by a whirlwind. They have been exercising in a West Side gymnasium and finish up with taking a sprint of about two miles. "A lot of lunatics turned loose," an onlooker declares; but the girls are not dismayed by this—far from it—for they are taking the exercise for the benefit of their lungs, which they consider more important than public opinion.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Fidells—The address you ask for cannot be given through the Journal. If you will send an addressed and stamped envelope it will be sent to you through the mail.

bonhomme our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, have always so exclusively enjoyed in their clubs.

"The men still have many advantages over us in many things, however," said one pretty woman in a green velvet bodice, "but then they are remarkable things we wouldn't do, even if we dared. We don't turn clear atmosphere into a rich old-bliss haze with grim tobacco smoke, and we never rest our tired little feet at an unseemly elevation."

Although breakfast, luncheon and dinner are served at stated hours, afternoon tea is a sort of continuous affair, and is, naturally, very popular. Besides the many conveniences "heretofore before mentioned," as the lawyers say, information regarding theatres and entertainments is freely given and tickets secured if desired. When necessary, a chaperon is provided. The management has always some one in attendance to advise out-of-town members regarding the best shops, milliners and modistes; she also will undertake shopping commissions for uptown and suburban members. Ladies' maids and housemaids are often recommended by the management to those desiring to engage servants.

A limited number of sleeping apartments at reasonable rates are at the disposal of members only, and many out-of-town members, detained over night in the city, find themselves as comfortable and cozy as in their own homes.

The club is but five months old, yet in that short time it has proven successful beyond expectation, and to-day among the enrolled members are such well-known names as Mrs. Fred P. Bellamy, Mrs. Mary Lowe as Mrs. Fred P. Bellamy, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Dean Sage, Mrs. Seth Low, Mrs. Henry Willard and dozens of New York's and surrounding cities' representative women. Next Summer there will be provided special accommodations for members out of town who may wish to run into the city for a few days.

Mrs. Florence C. Ives is the proprietary manager of the club. "New members are always welcomed," says Mrs. Ives, "the only requisites being good character and standing. There is no initiation fee. The yearly dues of \$5 insure the privileges of the clubhouse, thus relieving members of all financial responsibilities."

## A HEROIC RECEIPT.

They tell a story of a young woman—one of many—who, being afflicted with a sudden and mad desire to become an actress, called on the late Lester Wallack and requested his assistance in getting on the stage. The most disreputable actor-managers looked at her in his own light-comedy way and asked: "Are you married?"

"No," replied the aspirant. "My dear young lady," said Mr. Wallack, "go and get married, have two or three children, lose them, be beaten by your husband, get a divorce—and then come back and try to act!"

## HOW THE SINGERS ARE INSTALLED.

Most people look upon prima donnas as children of luxury and ease. In fact the life of a vocal star, while actively engaged in her pursuit, is anything but idle. She has, however, no lacks of creature comforts, but so sensitive is her organism that she must deny herself many pleasures which people with talent in other directions indulge in with impunity.

Melba occupies one of the finest apartments at the Hotel Savoy. She has in her retinue a companion, a personal maid and another maid whose duty it is to look after her mistress's stage wardrobe. Melba also had a charming young English woman as her companion. The latter married a few weeks ago, and Melba played the role of a fairy godmother by giving her a sumptuous wedding breakfast and a check of four figures with which to purchase her trousseau.

Calve, the incomparable Carmen, is perhaps more thrifty than some other great prima donnas. She is living at the Plaza Hotel with her friend and only confidant, Mme. d'Hardelet and a maid. Her suite of five rooms is on the third floor, with southern exposure. Like most women born under sunny skies, Calve loves the sun. She says she likes the English people, but thinks they are cold and cheerless. "They are just like the atmosphere in which they dwell," she said recently. "I would die if I had to live in their climate of rain and fog and soot. The sun! You never see him in England."

Calve has a charming little chalet in Southern France, where she raises not only fruits and vegetables, but a cunning breed of little sheep, with wool as white and as velvety as the notes from her own throat.

Mme. Nordica, who is the greatest of American vocalists, lives in simple yet elegant style while travelling. She occupies rooms with her husband and maid at the Imperial Hotel. Nordica is proud of her country and its institutions, and is noted for her gracious manner and liberality.

Beautiful Lola Beeth, the idol of the Viennese, whose forte is heroic parts in Wagnerian opera, and Marie Brema have luxurious apartments at the Hotel Vendome.

The other leading female singers, such as Martelli, Scatchi, Oltzka, Jannaschewsky, Engle and dear old Bauermeister, who is the real mainstay of Mr. Abbey's grand aggregation, are scattered about at the leading hotels.

Mrs. Lydia Woolman, of Kansas City, hopes to live until after the installation of the next President. She has lived under the administration of all the Presidents since Washington, and she has a not unnatural desire to add still another one to the list. She was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1786, and she has a distinct recollection of seeing Washington pass her father's house when she was a small child. She has just celebrated her one hundredth birthday by a family reunion, at which were present three of her children, twelve grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren.

## PLEA FOR LIGHTED HALLS

A great deal has been written on the needed improvements in tenement houses, and a great deal has been done by virtue of this agitation. But there is one feature that has been left untouched in even the better class tenements—the darkened stairways and halls. In a long period of visiting among the poor on the East Side especially, I have only found in two or three instances, any lights whatsoever, burning in the halls. On entering the door the first thing that impresses one is the dim light. One can, if they have fair eyesight mount the first flight of stairs tolerably well, but after that the climbing becomes precarious to say the least, the darkness increasing at every step until one can only feel their way by clinging lightly to the banisters, and trembling as one hears, but cannot see an approaching footstep. Black, inky darkness fills the space until the top floor is reached, and the slightest reveals a little light struggling to find its way inside. Added to this is the nameless odor pervading many of the floors, and the constant sound of dripping water as one is stumbling through the darkness, gives one an eerie sort of feeling. I pride myself on my sure footing, but one day in coming down one of these darkened stairways on Mulberry street, my foot slipped on some small object, possibly a rough place in the stairs and I fell nearly to the foot; had it not been for my tight grip on the banister, my fate would have been sealed, for the rough, carpetless floors and steps are merciless. These stairways are dangerous to life and limb, and when one takes into consideration the number of little children crowded into these tenements, the only wonder is that more are not injured permanently. Cannot landlords be induced to have at least one light burning midway up the stairs during the day as well as at night. Light dispels evil. Let there be light.

FRANCES C. KIRBY.

## WOMEN OF INTEREST.

Out in the comparatively rural quiet of Kansas City Olga Nethersole has been delighting the populace by practicing the gentle art of riding a bicycle. Opposite the hotel where she lodged was a riding academy, and between the two was an alluring stretch of macadamized road. The sight of the smooth-gliding bicyclists was too great temptation for Miss Nethersole. She determined that she, too, would be a bicyclist, and the result added extremely to the pleasure of the Kansas City denizens, who gathered in crowds each morning to see her practise. She wore a steel-gray suit made with bloomers, and during most of her practice time she is reported to have been an indistinguishable mass of steel-gray bloomers, mahogany-colored "bun" and yellow wheel.

Mrs. Callie L. French is a woman who not only manages a show, but manages it when it is distributed over two boats. She travels up and down the Ohio and Mississippi and their tributaries, giving exhibitions at different points along the shores. The two boats have accommodations for all the performers and they sign a ten months' contract. The boats are laid up for repairs during March and April, and then the members of the troupe take their vacations.