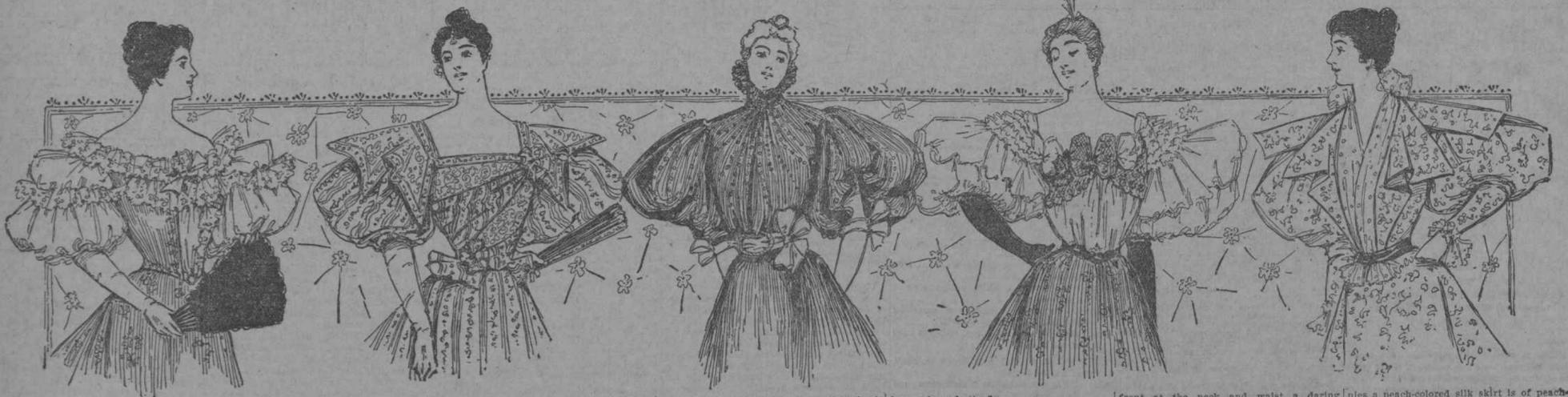


PARISIAN NOVELTIES DEPICTING PREVAILING FASHIONS FOR THE EVENING CORSAJE OF THE SEASIDE BELLE.



To what depth shall her evening bodice be cut? Shall she have a square neck or a round neck? Or was there perhaps truth in the rumor that pointed decollete effects were to be revived? Shall she have many bodices and one or two serviceable black satin skirts, or will fashion demand uniformity of hue in evening clothes? These are a few of the problems which are harassing the mind of the young woman with a Summer outfit to prepare. That they may

harass her no longer the following authoritative information has been collected and is placed at her disposal. In the first place, fashions and propriety have clasped hands for once and have agreed that the extremely decollete bodice is not to be tolerated. The evening frocks which have been sent from Paris for the Summer season all show that the decollete is broad rather than deep. Rounded necks are slightly commonplace at present, and the preference is for square ones. The square differs, however, from that of a few seasons ago. It is not a

patch from each side of the neck downward, but extends straight across the neck from shoulder to shoulder. The Marie Antoinette tulle is responsible for a revival of the pointed decollete effect, and several new evening gowns show V-shaped corsets that are very pretty. The black skirt with the light bodice is permissible only on semi-ceremonious occasions. At small dinners, at card and piazza parties the combination will be as popular as it has been during the Winter, but for full dress affairs the young woman who proposes to be a belle this Sum-

mer will have to have an evening frock with skirt and bodice to match, or if not matching according to ordinary standards, at least meant unmistakably to accompany each other. A bodice which belongs to the former class and is designed to wear with a black broad skirt is of white satin velled in tulle. The neck is cut square from shoulder to shoulder. In front the tulle is gathered to form a slight blouse. The neck is trimmed with a deep frill of black lace above which tulle puffs display themselves. In the back the tulle and lace combine to

form a huge butterfly. A green evening gown which is a poem in cool, delicious tints has a skirt that suggests a blossoming orchard in the moonlight. Over the shimmering green gown great bunches of silvery white flowers are cast. The bodice is of plain green silk of the shade called residue. It is slightly fitted, pointed at the waist in front and with a small tab basque in the back. It is bordered by a design in silver. A small vest of white tulle is inserted in the front. The neck is round. The lace frill that outlines it is also white, but just in

front at the neck and waist a daring French color touch is introduced in the shape of knots of baby blue ribbon. For somewhat informal affairs a bodice of black net spangled with sequins is shown. A high stock collar of shaded grass match give tone to the waist. The belt is fastened by a huge steel-buckle, and the collar is veiled by an overhanging frill of accordion-plated black chiffon. The elbow sleeves are slashed to the shoulder on the outside and fall away from the arms with a butterfly effect. A bodice which accompa-

nies a peach-colored silk skirt is of peach-colored brocade, made in pointed style both back and front. The square low neck is outlined by a deep adornment of Van Dyke points that extend over the sleeves and hang almost to the waist line in the front and back. They are of white satin, heavily embroidered in silver threads and pink beads. A bodice which shows the pointed decollete effect is of yellow satin cut in a long, narrow V, which is filled with white tulle. This style bids fair to be rather popular this season.

UNUSUAL GALLINGS FOR WOMEN.

Chicago Has a "Lady Burglar."



ELLA WEBBER.

Miss Ella Webber, of Chicago, tiring of the ordinary feminine pursuits, decided to enter the field of activity which her brother-in-law, Charles Shaw, adored. The result has been interesting for the police of the Windy City, for Mr. Shaw's favorite occupation is obtaining possession of other persons' property in a quiet and unostentatious manner. According to the police Miss Webber is admirably adapted to the profession she seems to have chosen, because she looks absolutely guileless and innocent. She has a delicately pretty face, oval and sweet. Her eyes not only look out frankly upon the world, but they are of the color supposed to represent truth of the most unwavering, steadfast sort, for they are a deep, clear gray. Her voice is gentle and refined and her whole manner indicative of sweetness and high breeding. Nevertheless she is a self-confessed burglar and she attempted to rob a fat the

other day under the direction of her brother-in-law. Miss Webber's explanation of the whole affair—which, by the way, she withheld until her brother-in-law had escaped—is that she was acting under a strange, Svengali-like influence which he exerted over her. The "lady burglar" of the West made her explanation in the following elegant language: "He fascinated me. He is a brilliant man. He possesses a rare education and he converses so as to hold one rapt. When he proposed to me, ten days ago, to help him enter a house, I cried, but I consented. Then I told my brother. He talked to me wisely about it, and I decided to have nothing more to do with so wrong an idea. But last Saturday my brother-in-law renewed his importunities. I went with him to the flat at No. 1100 Washington Boulevard. The rest of it seems to me as if it had happened in a trance."

TIMELY TOPICS FOR WOMEN.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR.

Remedies Known to Be Effective When Properly Applied. Many charming women have suffered untold agonies because of superfluous hair upon the face, sometimes thick, stubborn and black, but scattered; sometimes a mere downy and scarcely perceptible growth; occasionally a well-defined mustache, and, Heaven be thankful! only once in a lifetime, but the veriest freak of nature, a true beard of luxuriant and irrepresible vigor will appear on the otherwise delicate face of a woman. The most eminent scientists concede that they are baffled by this natural, persistent and insistent masculine growth.

The Orientals of our sex are more often afflicted with mustaches than we of a colder world, and, in fact, as many will recollect from personal observation, the mustache and hairy growth upon women's faces decline gradually, and undoubtedly through climatic causes and personal habits of cleanliness. In a rare case we travel from the hot and not too cleanly Orient to the cold (and personally more fastidious people) of the Occident. It is the exceptional woman with us who suffers from the knowledge that her beauty is destroyed by the appearance of hairs upon her upper lip.

Electrolysis (when successful) beyond all question is the sure cure for superfluous hair, but unfortunately the electric needle fails in about 90 cases in 100; that is to say, the operation of destroying the hair root is so extremely delicate that the needle, even when directed by scientific and expert hands, strikes the centre of the hair root only about ten times in a hundred. The operation, when unsuccessful, may be repeated over and over, and it has been in one case within my knowledge until every hair root has been killed, but it requires infinite patience, months of precious time, great endurance (as it is very painful) and the cost was for the treatment alone \$500. If you conclude to try electrolysis go to the best specialist, or you may attend to your growth of superfluous hair in a number of small white scars, which will, at a short distance, give your face the appearance of having been badly burned.

It is fortunate that there are depilatories which will at once remove the growth of superfluous hair without pain or danger if properly applied, and which, if temporary, answer every purpose, inasmuch as they may be used whenever required, are inexpensive (relatively speaking) and do not require the services of a physician or dermatologist.

In giving a formula for a depilatory, which is effective and harmless when properly applied, I wish to say that the compounding of this preparation said to be the invention of Dr. Boettger, should only be intrusted to a first-class chemist. This depilatory is highly praised by Dr. Monin, an eminent French authority. It is made by passing a current of sulphurated hydrogen through a thick layer of quick lime until the latter is thoroughly saturated. After this take of sulphurated of quick lime, 20 grammes; glycerinated starch, pulverized starch, 20 grammes each; essence of lemon, 10 drops.

Apply a little of the compound twenty or thirty minutes. Let it remain tightly or loosely. Wash off gently with warm water; if it begins to smart before the time mentioned wash it off. The hair will come with it. Apply a little cold cream to allay any redness or irritation. This preparation, I beg to repeat, is dangerous to have about and should be carefully kept where children cannot reach it. HARRIET HUBBARD AYER.

Answers to Correspondents. Mrs. J. J.—I should never advise the use of any but the simplest cream or lotion for a little girl. Soap, water, a scrubbing brush and fresh air, these are the cosmetics for the little ones. Young—A little later, with pleasure. Quincy—Mistress—I have already a number of times depicted the use of olive oil for the skin. Olive oil will certainly darken the skin. Coconut oil is far better in every way. HARRIET HUBBARD AYER.

TRUTHS TERSELY TOLD IN VERSE The following gem by Oliver Wendell Holmes will not be found in any edition of his poems. When his book "Over the Tea Cups" was published he sent to a friend a copy with these lines on a fly leaf: "Deal gently with us, ye who read! Our largest hope is unfulfilled; The promise still outruns the deed; The tower, but not the spire, we build."

"Our whitest pearl we never find; Our ripest fruit we never reach; The sweetest moments of the mind Lose half their petals in our speech!"

SOME AMUSING BLUNDERS.

Confusion Which Grows Out of Confounding Titles and Names.

How the Various Societies Are Regarded by Some of Those Who Apply for Aid.

The substantially elegant building on the corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street—a lasting monument to the generosity of Mr. John S. Kennedy—is occupied as headquarters for various charities—the "Charity Organization Society," "State Charities Aid," "City Missions," "Children's Aid," "New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor," and others.

In close proximity is the building occupied by the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children," and but a few steps away that of the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

Most, if not all, of these are as familiar to the relief seeker as "his own vine and fig tree," or the lack of it, as the case may be. But a vague idea seems to prevail among applicants that the societies are one and the same, so that one who has started for the "Charity Organization" or "Children's Aid Society" is as likely to ask for any one of the others. Usually a common Fourth avenue from the fact of its once having had its headquarters at that address. The correct name seems to convey no meaning whatever; they catch at a word or two and finish it out according to inclination. In this way it has been merged into "Poor Improvement Society," "Society for the Improvement of Children's Aid," "Animals' Improvement" and innumerable others.

One solid faced woman with no appreciation of her native satire, gave it the title of the "Society for Improving the Condition of the Charitable." Another asked for the "Prevention of Charitable Organization," their invariable put a strong accent on the second syllable.

The sign Penny Provident Fund in one of the windows attracted one who was much disappointed and quite inclined to feel that she had been lured in under false pretences when she learned the nature of the popular savings bank. The word "penny" was all that conveyed any meaning to her, and she supposed she had only to call and be rewarded by a greater or less supply of the coin of the realm, or, as she expressed it, "the price of a bit and a cup of tea." It was not a bad idea in one to call it the "Provident Children's Society."

A funny mistake was made not long ago by a woman who looked as if she had been born out of a solid oak log, with square, broad shoulders, and the physique of an Amazon. She presented herself as an applicant for assistance and announced that she was one of the "little mothers." On being questioned it was learned she had attended at one of the missions what is known as a "mothers' meeting," and not being very clear as to little or meaning supposed she was a "little mother."

When the Loan Association first started it had an office on the ground floor of the building, and it took some little time for the class who carefully guard their brows from the sweat of labor to understand its objects. They only grasped a wild idea that a society had been established for the sole purpose of loaning money without interest, mortgage or protection; an El Dorado opened up for the special benefit of the idle, desiring members of the community. One whose face was a branch of the bar and who was known to have spent his life in encouraging only the worst phases of his own character, and that of his associates, was loud in denouncing the Provident Loan as an "underhand pawshop," which he was surprised to see started by "Christian organizers," and he expressed himself freely on the subject. "Didn't expect you folks to encourage the poor to run to lawshops—it's got to now they hitch 'em on to the churches," etc. His remarks were called forth by the fact that he was in possession of a liberal advance on an old, worthless, moth-eaten garment, which he offered as a collateral.

A DELECTABLE SALAD.

How to Prepare and Serve Lobster According to French Rule.

Boil the lobsters by putting them in cold, well salted water. Stand the kettle on the stove, where the water will quickly come to the boiling point, then let them boil fifteen minutes. Take them at once from the kettle and stand in a cool, dry place to drain. As soon as cold remove the meat from the shells by splitting them down the back and cracking the claws. The meat will keep much longer out of the shell than in it. When ice cold cut the meat in large dice. Line a salad bowl with crisp, white lettuce leaves, lay the cut up lobster lightly in the bowl after the lettuce, and season with salt, pepper and a little tarragon vinegar. Sprinkle over all a few capers and stand the bowl in a cool, dry place. When ready to serve spread over the top a thick mayonnaise. Ornament with hard boiled eggs cut in quarter lengths, lemon cut in the same way, a few pitted olives, a few bits of blood-red boiled beet, cut in diamond shape, and a small heart of lettuce in the centre.

The following recipe for a mayonnaise is from Pierre Blet, one of the greatest cooks France ever produced, and who, when he came to this country, gave New Yorkers their first instruction in French cooking: Put in the bottom of a deep soup dish a quarter of a teaspoonful of dry English mustard, add the yolk of one fresh raw egg. Mix these ingredients well together by stirring them with a flat bladed fork, then open a bottle of fresh olive oil, take it in the left hand, and pour in the oil drop by drop, stirring constantly with the fork in the right hand.

As soon as the ingredients are so blended that they become a stiff, waxy mixture, thin it with a few drops of tarragon vinegar, stirring all the time. Repeat this process until you have a sufficient quantity mixed. Let the mayonnaise be so stiff that it will heap up like a boiled custard. The yolk of one egg and the amount of mustard given will absorb nearly the entire contents of a large bottle of oil. Mayonnaise must be kept in a cold, dry place and must be mixed in a plate stood on chopped ice. Never add salt to the dressing.

FROU-FROU.

"Principia non Homines," beneath a crown surmounted by a bird with outspread wings, all stamped in gold, is the motto and crest used by Mrs. Seward Webb upon her stationery.

An American lady travelling in Japan writes home concerning the Empress: "She is a thoroughly Americanized lady, of stately bearing, charming character and broad intelligence."

On the promenade violets reign conspicuously, both on hats, bonnets and corsages—violets, deep, blue violets—and one is moved to repeat Thackeray's parody, "Cabages, bright, green cabages!"

Mrs. Henry Clews has a most beautiful ornament for the dinner table. It is a plateau three feet long, the centre of which is a mirror and the borders of which are silver, ornamented with festoons of laurel leaves in low relief, with exquisitely modelled figures at either end.

Mrs. William Douglas Sloane (nee Vanderbilt) has a tender spot in her heart for sick children. She keeps one hospital supplied with toys, books, fruit and flowers the year round.

Mrs. George de Forest has recently added an envy-betgetting gown to her wardrobe. It is a dream in Nile green velvet, with white satin and silver trimmings galore.

A YACHTING FANCY.



QUESTION, MAY A WOMAN SAY DAMN?

The Woman Who Did.



SARAH CHURCHILL, First Duchess of Marlborough.

It isn't the word so much as the way in which 'tis said. A radiantly handsome girl can set one's nerves prickling with even a little smothered damn; while her chum, a dimpled, jolly faced, high spirited young woman, can make one grin with hearty amusement, when she flings out a big, big D. Entre nous. There are women who can positively be profane without making one thoroughly despise them.

It is a bit unfair that men should claim the exclusive right to turn a clear atmosphere into a baby-blue mist, with vigorous variations of naughty, naughty swear words. All humanity needs an explosive ejaculation at times, just to relieve pent up anger and indignation. "The Empire Dramatic School" girls have a favorite expression for all occasions, "Great pickles!" and it receives whatever dramatic inflection the case demands. "The New England Conservatory" students say "By Jingo!" with a sort of double circumflex slide which is bewitching.

The Yassar girl compromises matters with "Cussity-hollity devilty-damn!" and the "damn" doesn't sound like anything ragged on to the foolish little trio of "Tits," Wellesley College misses are famous already for having the most musical college cry in the whole country, and when they exclaim, with a cute little rasp, "Holy smoke!" or "Gracious alive!" they are irresistible.

An English boarding-school girl ejaculates, "Oh, silly Juggins!" in the most disgusted tone imaginable, and one always smiles to hear her.

There is a college down East where the young lady students can say "Bo gosh!" with the most approved Yankee twang, and they are not ashamed of it, either.

It is safe to assert that every woman in the land resorts to some pet phrase or innocent "cuss word" when annoyed or elated. Naturally, society does not consider exclamatory outbursts as fit accom-

paniments for fan, card case and vinaigrette. She is right in that, but the most innocent, mild little woman can't possibly refrain, when the occasion prompts, to exclaim "Great Scott!" "Ye gods!" "Sweet lavender!" "Jehosaphat!" or "Golly!"

One of the most notoriously profane women of her time, and, perhaps, any time since, was Sarah Churchill, the first Duchess of Marlborough. She was boss of her husband, and all his goods and chattels. When the now famous Blenheim Palace was in course of erection, away back in the seventeenth century, the Duchess appointed herself overseer and general superintendent of the magnificent project. The consequence was that, long before it was finished, Her Highness flew into a fit of rage and profanity, and the alarmed architect and his army of workmen were driven out of the half completed palace. She would not be pacified, and for twenty-five years Blenheim Palace remained closed to all intruders and improvements. The poor workmen in the meantime were obliged to sue for their wages, which must have caused many hours of profanity among the Duke's retainers on the part of the handsome Duchess.

Our Cousinelo, the present Duchess of Marlborough, forms a striking contrast to the young Duke's well remembered ancestor. However, history has not chronicled that the subtle Cleopatra fudge saucy or tremendous outbursts at her subjects or slaves; nor has it been intimated that the inspired goddess of war, the beloved Joan of Arc, turned back to swear at her brave and gallant legions.

Our Miss Pitcher and gray-haired Barbara Fritchie did not win their place among the heroines of this great nation by unbecoming adjectives or by prefixed and affixed "—s." Nevertheless, exclamations will forever be popular, because they serve as outlets for conflicting and disturbing emotions. After all, it isn't the word one says, but the odd little way in which one says it.

FIG LAYER CAKE.

To one cup of butter allow two cups of sugar, three cups of flour, six eggs, one teaspoonful of baking powder and one pound of figs. Open the figs, spread them upon a dish and put in the oven a few moments to soften. Mix the butter and pour half of it into a square pan. Spread the figs over the surface, then add the remainder of the butter. Bake in a moderate oven to prevent drying. When nearly cold slice once through the centre. Spread with a thick layer of boiled icing; put back the top, nicely fitted, and ice the entire cake.

A LEAP YEAR FUNCTION.

The most complete and successful effort in behalf of leap year yet given is a debut tea in honor of a number of masculine buds. The young men, it is true, had glory thrust upon them, but they rose to the necessities of the occasion nobly, as true men are sure to do. The decorations of the room were in pink and each but wore a La France bow. They served tea and chocolate with astonishing aptness, and altogether put the girls to the blush by their ability to perform these tasks. It is further told that they made such ideal hosts that not one guest was overlooked.