DOMESTIC WOES OF WASHINGTON LADIES.

Wives of Cabinet Ministers, Senators and Others on a Homely Theme.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S HOME REBELS.

Training School for Servants Suggested and a Call for Cooking Schools.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1891.—The Presidential question, the Indian question and the Farmers' Alliance question are all being discussed by the men of Washington, but the question that is nearest to every woman's heart is the servant girl question.

Not long ago there appeared in the columns of a New York newspaper the following announcement:—

And now a servant girl society has been organized in Gotham for the protection of mistress and maid. The society demands that each servant on leaving her mistress shall leave behind her a reference of "character." The reference shall state whether the mistress has been mild tempered or severe, liberal or "prudent," subject to "company" or not, &c. The mistress also gives a reference. In this way both parties are suited, neither is imposed upon and the world wags harmoniously on.

The fact is that the relations of mistress and servant are rapidly changing. The servants gain in power every day, and they seem to also gain in inefficiency and ignorance. One-half the talk of Washington society, I blush to say, relates to servants, and the ladies here are discussing whether it might not be possible to bring about a reform in the education of their servants and in the rules respecting them. The question of colored servants versus white servants is an important one where about one-third of the population is made up of negroes, and I find a general desire among the leading ladies of the land that schools for the training of servants should be established here and throughout the country. I have spent this week in interviewing some of our most noted ladies on the servant girl question. I have taken the experienced housekeepers among our statesmen's wives and I find that every woman has her own ideas on the subject and that many of them are good ones.

WHAT THE WIFE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR THINKS.

One of my first visits was to Mrs. Proctor, the wife of the Secretary of War, who will this winter assume her rightful position among the ladies of the Cabinet as well as at the head of her household, which she was last season compelled to resign to her niece, Mrs. Carey, and her daughter, on account of her devotion to her invalid son. Mrs. Proctor said:—

"I have had very little if any experience in housekeeping in Washington, Mrs. Carey having last winter entirely relieved me of all responsibility in that respect as in others, so that I am hardly qualified to give judgment in regard to the class of service in the District of Columbia. With the exception of my cook and waiter, both of whom are colored, I have brought with me from New England most of my help. Last year I had an Irish maid and laundress.

"This season I have secured a young Swiss girl from among the workmen's families on my husband's quarry estates in Vermont. I find the Swiss to be a most thrifty, hard working class. This girl will perform the duties of maid, and I have so far found that servants among the Swiss seem to possess an inate adaptability and quickness of perception that is largely in their favor above others. You would be surprised to know how ambitious the lower classes among the race are to make for themselves a home and a community in America. Their only drawback to the successful accomplishment of the desire is the fact that they have as yet few churches established in our midst. Being a clannish community they find it difficult to mingle with strangers at their worship. They are growing in number, especially in the New England States, and the country about shows the benefit of their steady industry. Judging from the complaints that I hear on all sides of the difficulty of obtaining good servants, I am of the opinion that it would be as well to organize a society for the training of servants, who might be induced while attending school to devote an hour or so of each day to learning to cook, make beds, set a table properly or any of the other accomplishments by which they expect to earn their living."

MRS. SECRETARY NOBLE'S TROUBLES.

Mrs. Noble says she has good reason since her arrival in Washington to pray for a reformation among the colored servants of the District. She is unfortunately compelled to employ six, and finds the truth of Mrs. Stow's assertion that "a multitude of servants is like a roast at every fire—they must needs each be attended to," and one invariably gets in the way of another. "In fact," she said, with a sigh of resignation, "I find them a great responsibility, but a very necessary evil."

"Can you not propose some remedy?" I asked.

"The only remedy I can suggest would be the organization of some charitable society for the early training of the working class, where a complete initiation into the various avocations by which they hope to gain a livelihood will be the end sought after."

MRS. RUSK ADVOCATES COOKING SCHOOLS.

Mrs. Rusk, wife of the genial Secretary of Agriculture, considers herself very fortunate in having secured the well trained white servants brought from Wisconsin by Mrs. ex-Postmaster General Vilas, thereby escaping the usual discouragements experienced by many newly arrived Washington housekeepers. In discussing the subject Mrs. Rusk spoke approvingly of the established cooking schools in Wisconsin and Illinois, to which many ladies are in the habit of sending their servants for regular hours of tuition.

This branch of education is also considered an important adjunct of the industrial schools, in which both boys and girls are carefully instructed in the various trades, including those of cooks, housemaids and waitresses. Such children so instructed yearly find ready employment and seldom fail of giving satisfaction to the employer. A good mistress is more apt to secure good service if she has a practical understanding of housewifery and is careful to personally instruct her help in each particular duty. I do not doubt but what the organization of some such a school in our midst would very soon repay the efforts of those interested and prove an undeniable blessing to the community at large.

MRS. SHERMAN'S IDEA.

Mrs. Senator Sherman thinks the most efficient remedy for the present evil of poor service and dishonesty among those employed would be the organization of a training school in conjunction with the colored public schools of the district. She tells me that for nearly twenty years she has had the same cook, a typical old Virginia darky, whom she secured at the close of the war, and who, according to the custom of all Southern households in ante-bellum days, was instructed almost from infancy in the essential rudiments of her art.

"Unfortunately," continued she, "old Fanny has at length grown incapacitated for active work, and I am compelled to employ a younger woman. I have been busy all the week initiating the new cook, but I am thankful to have accomplished the worst part of the work in the selection from among a throng of applicants by whom I have been besieged. I begin to appreciate the annoyances of those who are less fortunate than myself, and who have been compelled to change from one month to another.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S DOMESTIC INSURGENTS.

"I remember," she went on, "what a trying experience of this kind Mrs. Grant had during her early life in Washington and during the time of the General's command. She was continually being annoyed by first one servant and then another refusing to perform certain duties in order to shift them off upon the shoulders of other servants. At length affairs reached such a climax that it was almost impossible to obtain any attention. When the state of affairs became apparent to the General he called the domestics together and with military precision apportioned to each his separate duties, demanding unquestioning obedience in all respects upon pain of instant dismissal. After this the work was harmoniously accomplished and complaints were no longer heard." Mrs. Sherman added:—

"I think that an overstrained spirit of independence is an American fault, and quickly influences those who dwell for a while among us. As an example of this I recall the time of our home life at Mansfield, Ohio. There were many Germans living there, most of whom came over to act as servants—and very good ones they made. But the second generation invariably reaped the benefit of their parents' thrift, and, marrying well to do tradesmen, would enjoy homes of their own. I remember one family of Germans, nine in number, all of whom upon coming to the country obtained employment in resident families, and by careful management laid by sufficient to purchase a large brick house, after which they lived together in domestic comfort, and nothing would induce one of their children to accept a servant's position. Unless some effort is made before long to destroy this false idea of independence every mistress will have to be her own maid and every householder his own servant."

MRS. CULLOM'S STORY OF MRS. PRESIDENT HAYES.

Mrs. Cullom, wife of the Illinois Senator, I found at her handsome Massachusetts avenue home, having but recently returned from the West. A soft voiced, neat looking white maid opened the door and ushered me into the large, square parlor on the second floor. Mrs. Cullom replied to my question concerning her experience with servants that she had brought her cook and housemaid with her from Illinois, as she was surprised to find that of those who hired out as professional waitresses very few knew even how to set a table properly.

"With the exception of my coachman, a colored man," she said, "I prefer Irish domestics, or rather those of Irish descent. Though I have had little or no experience with colored servants in the house, as a general thing I understand that the men of the colored race make much more reliable servants than the women. One of the most original arrangements within my experience was the case of Mrs. President Hayes. It was during a visit paid us some years since by the ex-President and his wife, that I learned to my surprise that Mr. Hayes' valet also performed the duties of maid to his wife—that is, he personally superintended their sleeping apartments and with his own hands each morning laid out his mistress' clean linen and arranged the adornments of her toilet. I never could understand this fancy on Mrs. Hayes' part. Still, with her it seemed the most natural thing in the world, and certainly the valet was most conscientious and efficient in the performance of his rather unusual rôle."

I asked Mrs. Cullom what she thought would be the most effectual means of bringing about a reform in the education of our servants, and she said:—"By all means let us organize a training school in every city and train the poor children in all the domestic duties of everyday life, laying a firm foundation of practical knowledge in all those important branches which will enable them to gain an honest livelihood."

GOOD IDEAS FROM MRS. SENATOR VANCE.

Mrs. Senator Vance, of North Carolina, has had many years' experience of housekeeping in our midst, and by her education in a luxurious Southern home is capable of a just estimation of the servant question. "What has been your experience with servants since you came to Washington?" I asked.

"To tell the truth," she answered, "I have been exceptionally fortunate, having brought my cook with me from the South many years ago, and with her husband as waiter I have never enjoyed greater comfort in housekeeping. Notwithstanding the fact that the man was a divinity student and spent most of the morning at college, he conscientiously performed every duty before leaving each day, and proved an accomplished waiter. My greatest trouble has always been with my coachman. It seems to me from personal experience that, as a race, colored coachmen make it a business of getting drunk every night. Doubtless, from the constant exposure of their life, they are more susceptible to temptation of that kind. Something ought certainly to be done to reform this habit, but the question is, 'What?' There is a fine field for missionary work in this respect could an interest be aroused among charitable people in our midst.

"Another secret of securing good service is to be strict in our management and never to perform a duty that has been wilfully neglected by a domestic. One of the very best housekeepers as well as the most respected mistress I ever knew was a Kentucky woman, who told me that the true secret of her success with good servants was that she never overlooked the smallest neglect of duty, but never forgot that they were human beings, and required little indulgences and some time for leisure after the regular work of the day was performed. In this way she retained their affection as well as their respect, and the machinery of the household moved on oiled wheels. I most sincerely indorse the proposal for the organization of a training school for young colored girls in the District."

HOW MRS. VICE PRESIDENT MORTON MANAGES SERVANTS.

One of the most practical managers in our midst is Mrs. Morton, wife of the Vice President. I am told that she employs some eighteen or twenty servants, including housemaid, ladies' maid, cooks, laundresses, sub-laundresses, coachmen, footmen and housekeeper. Seventeen of these, all white, were brought on with them from the North last winter, and so systematic is the household that there never is any clashing of duties or complaint of each other. Mrs. Morton, notwithstanding all her social obligations, regularly oversees the arrangement for each day, and holds a morning interview first with the cook and afterward each employé in turn. In this way there is no hitch and the usual conflicting worries of housekeeping are avoided.

CHAT WITH MRS. SENATOR STEWART.

Mrs. Stewart, the wife of the Nevada statesman, who has but recently returned from Nevada and leased a furnished house on G street, in the old West End, tells me that her patience has been exhausted with the continuous discord among her maid servants, until at length she has been compelled to call a meeting and settle all differences over work by a regular war talk and by laying down a distinct law for each. So shiftless was the service that each endeavored to throw all the work on the other. In this way nothing was accomplished and the highest wages were demanded.

MME. ROMERO.

Mme. Romero employs mixed help and finds that as a general rule the apparently conflicting nationalities agree remarkably well. She has a French cook, an Irish maid and a colored butler and footman. Her greatest trouble has always been with the scullion, who is seldom retained for any length of time. A Philadelphian by birth, the wife of the Mexican Minister is an excellent manager, and the extended hospitalities of the Legation are ranked among the most elegant entertainments of the season.

SENATORS' CHINESE COOKS.

Senator Stanford has a Chinese cook, and these Chinese make as good cooks as you will find in the world. The Chinaman can learn anything, and after a few lessons he will beat the Frenchman himself at getting up a good dinner. I hear stories every day of the wonderful efficiency of the Chinese cooks connected with our Legation in the far East, and an ex-Minister to China lately told me his experiences. Said he:—

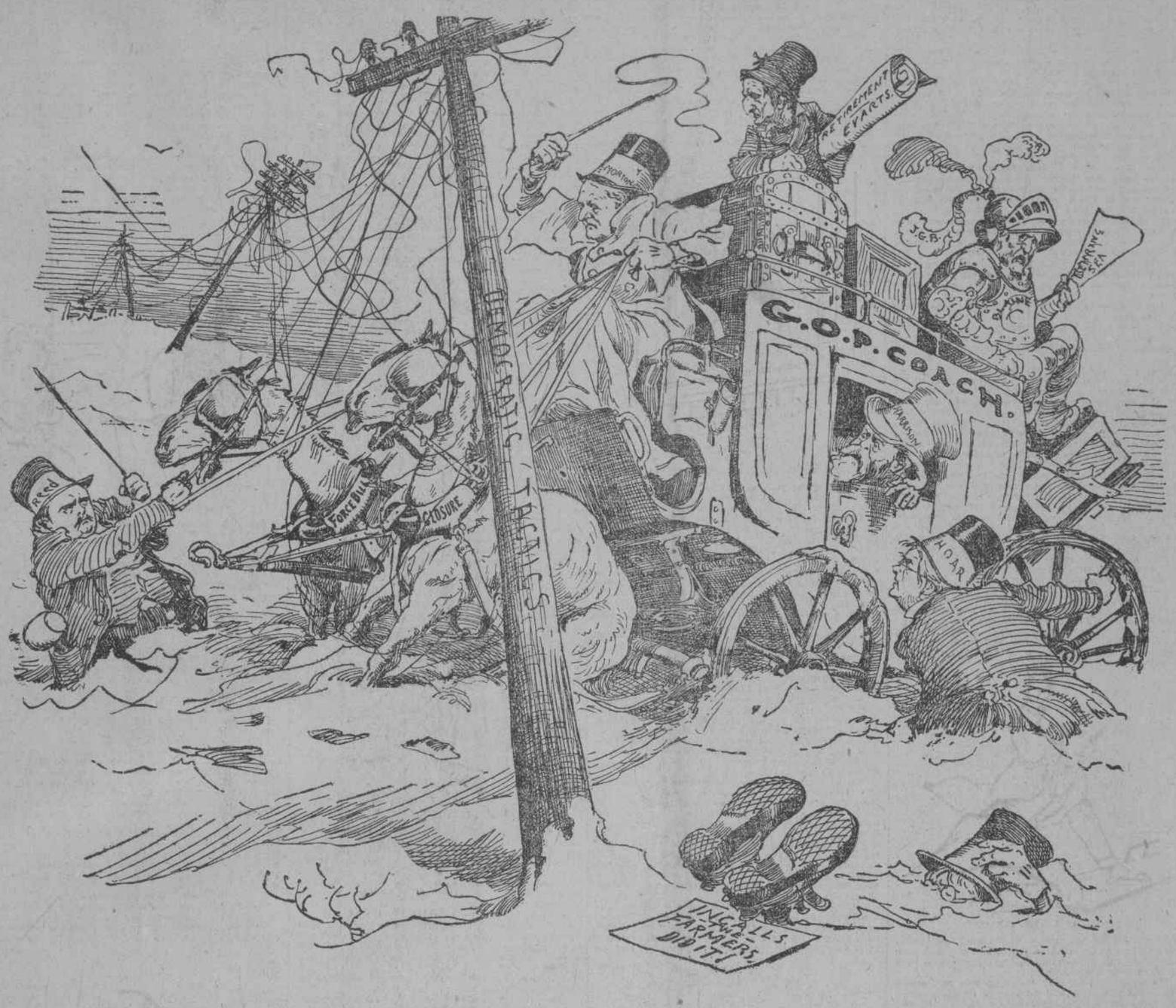
"I arrived in the country knowing nothing about the habits of the people or the language. I was worried as to how I was going to be able to get up my state dinners and I lay awake several nights thinking about it. When I arrived at my post, however, I found that the cook whom my secretary of legation had engaged for me was a full blooded Chinaman. I expected a diet of rice and rats and was surprised to find my first meal the best I had ever sat down to. I have never seen a cook who could beat this Chinaman. He would get up a big dinner *a la table d'hôte* with no more fuss than a meal for two, and he would have the wine, the courses and everything in as nice order as you could get it at Delmonico's or the Grand Hotel de Paris."

A QUEER JAPANESE MAID.

The Japanese servants are not so good. They need watching. I heard yesterday of some queer antics performed by a newly imported Japanese nurse in the employ of Mr. Austin Herr. Mr. Herr is a millionaire. He went to Japan a year ago and was so delighted with the people that when he came back he could do nothing until he had sent for this nurse. The family were pleased with her when she came, but it was noticed at once that she possessed queer ideas of baby farming.

She had a strange fascination for carrying the baby head downward, with apparent unconsciousness of the danger to the child. After serious admonitions, however, she was finally induced to correct the habit, and taught to push the infant out tucked snugly up in its pretty pink lined carriage. All went well until one day the neighbors noticed a curious performance that they were not long in communicating to the parents. It seems that no sooner had the nurse and child disappeared around the corner of the street out of sight of the dwelling than the nurse would carefully gather the garments about the feet of the baby, and quickly dragging it forth would treat it to a succession of rapid whirls, and then seeming well pleased with the exercise, carefully restore the child to its carriage and with apparent unconcern quietly continue her walk.

"BLOCKED!"



PARIS FASHIONS.

LATEST NOVELTIES IN THE SHAPE AND ORNAMENTS FOR DRESSES—GOWNS FOR PATTI.

[From the European Edition of the Herald.]

The ceinture byzantine is one of the best and latest of the winter's fashions. It is a simple princesse dress with the broad belt hanging in a straight panel to the hem.

The ceinture is of the same material as the costume, or may be of velvet, and is always heavily embroidered with Oriental designs. It is fitted to the figure as accurately as the corsage itself, and here it may be suggested that to none but a

A STYLISH HAT.

perfect figure—that is, perfect by a dressmaker's standard, broad shoulders and slender waist—will it be becoming; otherwise it may be clumsy, and the thick embroidery will make the waist too large. The ceinture is the same width in front and back, probably six or seven inches, and the end which hangs to the floor is the same width, and although cut in one piece and fitted to the figure, together it has the effect of being crossed in front, but really fastens in the back with invisible hooks.

A charming dress in this style is of bois de rose velvet, with the ceinture of the same covered with jet embroidery. A narrow band of the jet edges the skirt and a small plastron of the same is placed at the throat under the rolled corsage. Scarlet armure silk is handsome made in this model for a dinner dress, and white peau de soie embroidered with silver or gold is superb with the Byzantine effect. Russian embroidery and jewelry is in great favor.

NEW DRESSES FOR MME. PATTI.

Mme. Patti, who is to arrive in Paris this week, has ordered some gorgeous robes at the Rue Daunou house, which await her final trial of fitting. For the first act of "Traviata" is a vivid fire scarlet costume of velours du Nord, the front covered with embroidered white camellias and leaves, done by hand and arranged in five or six long lines up and down the skirt in order to give the diva, who is not too tall, as much height as possible. The back is a long train of scarlet satin, extending from the shoulders and without ornament. The front of the corsage is of velvet, covered with the embroidered white camellias.

A dress of white satin is completely covered with nail head points of small diamonds. Every inch of satin shimmers with the tiny gems. The corsage is covered with white gauze strewn with gold spangles embroidered on the gauze. A broad Byzantine ceinture such as has been described encloses the waist, made of white satin elaborately embroidered with gold and diamonds.

A gorgeous concert dress has a long train of apricot velvet, with a front of velvet façonné, a white satin ground covered with bouquets and flowers in colored velvet raised above the surface. The whole of this rich brocade is embroidered with jewels, the color of each flower being brightened by a jewel of the same shade. The effect is dazzling. The back of the low cut corsage is velvet, the front is the jewelled brocade.

A cloth dress for everyday wear by the cantatrice is made of old blue cloth, trimmed with black velvet, brocaded with blue flowers. The skirt is plain and the corsage is made entirely of the blue and black velvet, with a little cape draped on the shoulders and drawn plainly down to the figure in front. Then there is a douillette, a comfortable, cosey bedroom "wrapper" of changeable mauve and gray velours du Nord, simply made with the full front draping on the side and bordered with a band of fur across the folds, around the neck and down the front.

CLOTH FOR EVENING WEAR.

Cloth evening dresses are still much worn, and the quality of the cloth is so fine as to be quite as costly as silk. Delicate fabrics of all kinds are combined with the cloth as trimmings—gauze and mousseline de soie and lace, as well as original embroidery in all styles.

A dancing dress of cloth seems incongruous, but it is one of the caprices of the season, and the heavy, hanging folds are often extremely graceful in a ballroom. The tints produced in this fine cloth are probably one of the causes of its popularity, as the most perfect shades of color are made.

A dinner dress is made with the front of ivory colored cloth, with a deep band of gold and ivory embroidery around the bottom, the design being marked with *motifs* in the brilliant irridescent lopophore feathers. The front is cut princesse, fitting smoothly from the décolleté to the hem and finished across the bust with gold and ivory embroidery. The train is of ivory brocade, trimmed back with revers of emerald green velvet and fastened under the arms with a band of embroidery. The sleeves of ivory mousseline de soie are short and full and held to the shoulders with straps of green velvet. This description gives an idea of the combinations of cloth and brocade and gauze, as well as the use of the feathers with embroidery.

FEATHERS AND FURS.

Bands of feathers of all kinds, as well as fur, sable or chinchilla, and even astrakhan, are introduced into the elaborate bands of metal embroidery which are used on skirts. One prominent house has made a visiting dress with the front of the skirt and sleeves of a soft gray fur, with insertions of cloth embroidered with silver.

The effect is unusual, but the style is not sufficiently good to compensate for the discomfort of wearing so warm a costume indoors.

Jackets and bodices, with hip basques, continue in favor, many having the basques made of lace, with a garniture of lace in the front of the corsage for house wear.

SUMPTUOUS CHILDRENS' CLOTHING.

The costumes of children are, if possible, more sumptuous than those of their mammas. Embroideries and fur are placed upon the small garments of plush and velvet in a manner which would alarm an old fashioned mother. Bright bleu de France is a favorite color for children this season as well as turquoise. A cloak for a little girl of three years is made of turquoise blue velvet, with bows of white satin, opening over a skirt and plastron of old Venetian point lace.

A handsome dress for a young girl is of Sicilienne in royal blue, combined with a blue and black brocade velvet. The silk drapes simply over the front, and a panel of velvet extends from the shoulder to the hem, bordered with a band of blue feathers. The plain silk sleeves have half sleeves of velvet reaching nearly to the elbow and bordered with feathers.

Young girls wear stylish little cloaks, with a plastron or yoke of embroidery, and a wide cape turned back from the shoulders and drawn down to the waist, following the movement of the cloak, which fastens at the side. The cape and cloak are bordered with narrow fur or are scalloped and embroidered.

A STYLISH CAPE.

The Tudor cape of sealskin is a new English model, which is very stylish and convenient. The half long cloak is now made in seal as it has been for six weeks in all sorts of cloth. The shoulders are full and bunched very high, with a high collar faced with astrakhan.

Chenille trimming is appearing again as fringe and wired into shapes. Bonnets and capots are made of it, a rather pretty toque being shown in

SEAL AND ASTRACHAN SKATING CAP.

Rue de la Paix, of golden brown chenille forming a diamond shaped pattern, wired and twisted into shape, with a chenille cock's comb standing in front and bunches of violets in front and back.

Toques are shown with crowns of suede kid in the natural color, and of dressed kid stretched over the form, with the border of velvet or lace. Sometimes the kid itself is gathered and treated as if it were satin or velvet, and the sole ornament is a bunch of feathers. Velvet flowers are much used, and large butterflies with sharp pointed wings of blue steel are new.

FEATHERS AND UNDERWEAR.

Feathers are so much in favor that a handsome petticoat is displayed, made with silk foundation and flounces of gauze held in place by bands of feathers. This fragile piece of underwear would hardly survive one day of wear, but it is designed for an occasion of full dress.

A new order has commenced in the matter of hairdressing. Black hair is now the most *chic* shade, and the fortunate ones who have left nature to herself will rejoice, while the blondes and auburns must change their shades to be in the lead of fashion.

The hair is always waved either with hot irons or the patent tortoise shell waver. A new idea is to wave the hair around the head, the undulations making a continued circuit in successive rows. The hair is gathered to the top of the head and arranged in loose curls in the Greek style. Many little ornaments are designed to adorn the evening coiffure, young girls preferring a simple bandeau of gold or a band of soft silk, doubled and about two inches in width, which passes loosely around the coiffure among the curls and waves and ties on top of the head in a bow with pointed ends, which stand up.

SOUND WORDS TO GIRLS.

MRS. DR. JACOBY SHOWS WHEN EXERCISE IS AND IS NOT HELPFUL.

It is to be remembered that healthy young girls should not differ greatly from boys in regard to agility, but only in regard to endurance, and such muscular strength as involves boxing, wrestling or the lifting and carrying of weights.

A girl should be able to move her own body swiftly and deftly; but her inferior muscular force makes it always unadvisable and often injurious to impose upon her tasks which involve moving other bodies if these have any weight.

In accordance with this simple rule, girls should be encouraged to walk, run, climb, swim, ride, skate, shoot with the bow and arrow. A woman expert at firearms is an anomaly, unless she be compelled to live in lonely places and requires the knowledge for her protection.

Rowing is a most excellent exercise if the boat be not too heavy.

The exercise of jumping does not seem advisable, whether that of excessive rope jumping or high leaps at gymnasium. This restriction was not always observed, for Euripides makes a Spartan youth eulogize the girl he admired precisely for her skill at leaping. The dangers from this exercise have been exaggerated, yet there is an occasional risk of displacing internal organs by a sudden leap upon the feet.

The value of the forms of muscular exercise which have been enumerated have scarcely been exaggerated in the preservation of health. For girls who are sickly and whose bones and muscles have never been adequately developed the systematic exercise of each limb, as is obtainable in a gymnasium, is requisite.

All exercise must be graduated according to the previous habits of the girl.

It is very injurious to start off suddenly in summer vacations and take walks of ten and fifteen miles, when previous custom had not exceded a mile a day.

Women entirely unable to walk at all from hysterical paralysis may be re-educated to do so by being encouraged to take two steps on one day, four steps the next day, and so on. This principle of gradual increase is, of course, still more easily applied to well persons.

It is never well and sometimes dangerous to prolong any form of exercise too much. This is especially true of skating. Few girls can skate even an hour; because in this climate the ice does not usually last long enough to allow of the gradual increase to a period of two hours.

It should be unnecessary to add that no exercises can be considered satisfactory which are performed in tight clothing or corsets. If no girl wore corsets under the age of twenty-five the chest would have a chance to acquire its full developement, the habit of proper breathing would be established and proper fitting corsets could then be worn with impunity.

MARY PUTNAM JACOBY.

SHE WORE PLUMPERS.

HERE'S A NEW WRINKLE IN FEMININE DEVICES FOR THIN GIRLS TO CONSIDER.

"Never hear of plumpers?" asked a lady friend of mine the other day.

"No," said I. "What new feminine device is this, for goodness sake?"

"Well," she replied—we were calling, at the time, at the house of a mutual friend—"just you notice Miss —— when she comes down stairs and tell me if you notice anything strange or remarkable in her appearance."

The Miss —— referred to, be it said, is a tall and somewhat angular young woman of uncertain age, but who is possessed of a considerable degree of personal vanity and a more than ordinary desire to appear at her very best upon any and all occasions.

In a few moments she appeared and, after greeting us cordially, we entered into a general conversation. Nothing very remarkable about her, thought I.

"Well," said I to my lady friend, after our departure, "I have scanned Miss —— pretty closely but failed to notice anything worth commenting upon in her appearance. She talked as if she had something in her mouth——"

I was interrupted at this point by a peal of laughter.

"Why, what on earth are you laughing at?" said I. "And, by the way," I asked, "did it not strike you that Miss —— is growing somewhat stouter? Her face seems to be somewhat plumper——"

"There," interrupted my friend, "now you have it. Miss —— had 'plumpers' in her mouth." To my look of inquiry and astonishment she responded:—

"Plumpers, you see, are small round shaped affairs like a doll's saucer. They are made of rubber, and when held in place in the mouth they cause a woman's cheeks to become plump and round. When ladies have lost some of their teeth, plumpers come into play; prevents their jaws from appearing lantern shaped or their features from being angular."

"Heavens and earth!" said I. "What will the feminine mind conceive of next?"

"Oh," she responded, "there are lots of things about feminine attire that you have not yet heard of."

SHOOTING GROUSE ON PERTHSHIRE MOORS.

England's Royal Pastime and the Manner in Which It Is Enjoyed by the Nobility and the Rich.

RUSHING NORTH ON OPENING DAY.

Some Points About the Breeding and Care of the Game That May Be of Use in America.

Perth, Scotland, Jan. 21, 1891.—A fir clad hill not very far from here draped in blue slopes down to the borders of a stream, taking its tumbling course through ravines, crevice and drift until it draws far away into piles of red stone. The low land is threaded with paths here and there overhung with singular trees to which the yeomanry give strange names. The ground in almost every direction is rugged, and were it not for wealth of stunted shrubbery and dots of forest trees seen here and there it would be desolate. The woods are generally of beach and birch, spruce and fir, but bushes like those in our dear old America line the water paths which run in all directions through this rough and hilly country, given over to the pastimes which are well seen in action and repose at this moment.

One may gather from this sentence that I am at a shooting lodge in Scotland, and that the experiences of the past few days have taught me many strange lessons is true. In the United States when a man gets money by his own exertions he generally likes to give an evidence of his thrift in a fine house and a swell carriage. When the commercial man in England gets rich he still lives in the house that stood him in good stead when accumulating his fortune, but surrounds himself with swell servants and rents a shooting box in Scotland and tries to enjoy his money. He does this that when the season begins he may be found at the railroad station clad in rough clothes with his guns, dogs and servants on his way north. This is regarded as the insignia of wealth and position. That his servants are so much better dressed than himself matters not, for that is another badge of high place in a monetary sense. The rich American would do well to learn something of personal comfort from his brother on this side, for a more contented lot I never saw.

TITLED DEPENDENTS.

A few years ago only noblemen and titled people monopolized the moors, but now the tradesman competes with them for the best "shootings." This brings about some amusing incidents in the strange life of this country. Usually the self-made man going on his vacation takes with him as his guest some titled person whose yearly allowance is barely enough to meet his actual wants, not leaving a farthing for the pleasures of the season, which are so dear to every Englishman's heart. The daily papers are not averse to announcing that Mr. Jones with Lord So-and-So as his guest has gone with two guns and three braces of dogs to do a shooting in Scotland.

The 12th of August is one of the most important days of the year in England and to Englishmen. It is the one to which the young and the old, the rich and the poor look forward with more interest than to any holiday. Business is not closed, and the traffic of the whole country does not stop, as on Bank Holiday, which begins on the 4th of August; but the festive time which always ushers in that yearly event is scarcely over before all turn their eyes Northward and begin to make rapid preparation for "the sporting season," for which the 12th stands, and which continues into the winter. For days before every railroad station in London and at almost every other point in the United Kingdom men are gathered with their dogs and guns, all moving in one direction for the same object. Many go who are only able to scrape money enough together to stay one or two days; but an Englishman feels a wealth of comfort in being able to be on a moor on the 12th even if he has to go on scant rations the rest of the year.

THE CLUNY LODGE.

Grouse shooting being the royal pastime of England, a friend to the manner born who had spent several years in the United States suggested the importance, although it was late in the year, of my accepting an invitation from his friend Mr. Lee, a young man regarded as prime authority upon all sports of the field and the turf, to go North with him. I had not been shooting for many years and the bait was a tempting one.

So I found myself at a railroad station with my host ready for a journey. We both had guns costing a great deal of money. The train was filled with sportsmen, and the three others in our compartment talked constantly to my host all about the approaching sport. It was nearly dark when the train set us down at a little byway railroad station which my host said was in the midst of the Perthshire district.

"A machine" drawn by two horses was ready to take us over to "the box" called Cluny Lodge, a lovely little place among the Highlands. It was quite well into the night, too, when we were well housed and fed in the lodge. There was plenty of good Scotch whiskey to revive us after the journey and warm up the cockles of the heart for good associations. The experience was a delightful one. The little lodge was so quaer and cosey and the old gamekeeper such a character that I listened to his stories of the breeding season with great interest, although I could not understand half what he said. He was downhearted about the weather, but gave the owner, my host, the assurance that there were plenty of birds, and that the moor was plenty big enough for three guns.

The gamekeeper was a typical Scotchman and talked the dialect so well that I needed an interpreter. His heart and mind were all anticipation for the morrow's sport.

MISSES.

We were up with the lark in the morning full of spirit, but a regular Scotch mist—one of those impenetrable clouds of cold vapor—had settled over the hills and made an early start impossible. Later in the day it cleared, and with two braces of dogs and two guns we started for the beats, as the paths are called, which you follow in the search for the birds. The dogs were fresh and anxious and hunted briskly. I believe in hunter's parlance the expert would say that the dogs were "rank."

Be that as it may, the one before me "stood birds" before I could shoot and I banged away after it was out of reach. The brown beauties" were wild on account of the rain, but my friend was a better shot than I and he brought down his first, and kept on doing well until he had bagged twelve brace and killed two hares.

We only had about three hours' shooting, and I managed to knock over a solitary grouse and missed two rabbits which were directly in my path. When I returned to the lodge for rest and a drink the old gamekeeper quietly expressed to my friend his disgust for me as a gunner. For if there is any one thing in the world that a keeper detests it is a man that will miss his second grouse. But this wing shooting was too much for me, and as an Englishman would regard it as an unpardonable sin to kill a bird except in the air, I was not in the game.

Having pressing business in London I quietly left the moor the next day, leaving my host to enjoy what he regards as the greatest sport known to men. I can imagine that to a good shot, who can pick his bird as it flies, there is much of zest and life in the stand of the dog and the whir of the grouse. But to me the lessons I learned were of far more interest.

THE CARE OF GAME.

My visit to the Perthshire moors was not made to ascertain my skill as a wing shot, but to learn some facts in the breeding and care of game that must soon become a serious question in the United States.

A gamekeeper's duties are by no means easy. He has to attend to the entire moor, preserve it from the flames, watch the condition of the birds, look after their nesting as much as possible and to feed them occasionally during the severe weather. He must at all times know the condition of his moor, and the outlook for shooting long before the season begins. As a rule they are very trusty servants, taking great pride in their occupation.

Most of the moors are owned by large landed proprietors, who rent out a shooting for a term of years. The price ranges all the way from $250 per annum to many thousands per year. It is not an unusual thing for a rich man to control a moor of fifty thousand acres or more. Mr. Winans, of Baltimore, owns the most extensive deer and shooting range in Scotland, and there has been no end of complaint about this one man controlling such a vast number of acres for hunting purposes.

On a great many of these moors besides sport for the gun there is excellent fishing, and trout and salmon are taken in large quantities. The capacities of these "boxes" for sport is reckoned at so many guns, and so many rods, and the price fixed accordingly. The limit of a man's renting is clearly understood and no honorable man will hunt or fish beyond it. Even if a man flushes a bird and it flies beyond the boundaries of his moor he will not follow, but wait for his return, and, as they very generally come back to their breeding place he is fairly sure to get it sooner or later. In surrounding the preservation of game with such stringent restrictions both of honor and law, shooting is kept in fair condition during the months when it is allowed. This kind of sport is very expensive, but the Englishman does not murmur except when the sport is not good.

THE FAVOR OF THE HEATHER.

To the average American the interest taken here in the 12th of August is a marvel. Not only those who go to the moors to shoot are filled with the spirit of the day, but in every town of Great Britain the game shops are eagerly watched to see the first grouse displayed, and there is an unheard of rivalry, not only to kill but to market the first bird. The shop windows in the larger cities are many of them dressed with heather and stuffed birds and men wear a sprig of heather bloom in their buttonholes instead of a rose. The first birds in market bring an extravagant price, generally as much as $2 50 a piece.

FRANK A. BURR.