

## FOR THE CRITIC.

LETTERS TO COUSIN CARYL.

Dear Cousin Caryl,-I have had hosts of company the past week and been dissipating to quite an oxtent. Do you remember the Bent girls from Washington? Well, they suddenly put in an appearance last Monday night. I hadn't seen them for ten years, but they looked, as the man said, "as large as life and twice as natural," especially Lucia, the eldor. I expect Laura will be married this fall, and I went shopping with her, and saw hosts of pietty things. You know an old uncle, who ran away years ago to California, turned up a few years back enormously wealthy, and used to give them over so much. And last year it pleased a kind Providence to remove him after he had made a will in which his two favorite nicces were very generously remembered. So now Laura and Lucia are h- iresses. They are not a bit changed however. Laura became engaged three years ago to Will Cummings, a "poor but worthy young man," an : although she "came out" in New York Society since and has had a dozan so-called brilliant offers since then (from impecunious young men without much in the way of steady habits but with a greet deal in the way of family,) she has not ones dreamed of anybody but her Will. I helped her to pick out her trousseau—al of d inty silk and finest laces. I wish you could see the biby blue silk night gowns we got at Stearnes.' I told Laura that if I ever come to own such things I shall sit up all night in front of the looking-glass just to see myself in them-I know I shall. The softest, creamiest lice in cascades down the front and at the throat fini h them, and they are altogether "too sweet for anything" Her linen was most of it besutifully embroidered by hand (nun's work,) although some of it was trimmed with valenciennes lace, and one set with the fine strong Irish point. She get some lovely dresses two; one or too of them are being made to order for her. One was a charming gown of white veiling, into which were woven delicato blossoms of clover, the petals of which were of the palest rose-heliotrope, brightened here and there with a gleam of silver thread The edge of the skirt was bordered with a deep band of cloverpink: The draped hodice was gathered into a gold and silver embroid-aicd zone, into which pink ribbon was folded. A chemisette of rosy crèpe de Chine filled in the front of the bodice. The hat which accompanied this beautiful gown was of white lace-straw, lined with pale clover-pink velvet, the crown covered with blossoms and grass. Her wedding-dress is to be of ivory satin and crepe de Chine, entirely embroidered by hand. ٦r seems to me, that if I were marrying a penniless young man like Will, seems to me, that if I were marrying a penniless young man like will, even if I were an heiross in my own right, I would not care for anything quite so elaborate as she has, but it is none of my business. I saw a wed-ding-gown the other day for one of Boston's heiresses that went far ahead of everything elso in this country. 'This piece of loveliness has outrivalled all the wedding-gowns for costliness, and for the beauty of the rare Alencon lace with which it was trimmed. For a fortnight curiosity-shops and col-lections of rare laces were ransacked to find enough Alencon for its adornment. The cream-white satin was specially ordered from Lyons. The train, three yards long, was covered with two lengths of lace. This vision of bridal white wrought in lace and satin and long trails of orange-blossoms was insured for nearly 20,000 francs (£S00,) just half 1's value, and a duty of 7 500 francs (£300) was paid at the New York Custom-house Well, we ordinary people like to see and hear of such things once in a while, even though we may not aspire to them. There are not many people in this country who can afford such things.

Lucia B-nt is not a bit like Laura. She is much plainer in dress, but she does a great deal of good with her money. I am told that she spends nearly half her income for other people. And who doubts that she is happier for it?

Of course there is not much new in the way of fashions so far. Nobcdy has got home from the watering-places yet, and the place to see style is not in Boston in August. There are few new fancies in household knick-knacks.

The "memory hoop" is the newest craze among society young ladies. Any hoop will do, for it is covered up by pieces of ribbon, presented by girl friends, upon which must be painted or embroidered the name of the giver, and the date when given. The ribbon must have been worn, elso it possesses no charm. From gentlemen friends a copper cent is obtained, highly polished and engraved with the initials of the donor. These are suspended by ribbons from the hoop, which in turn is suspended in the owner's room. If a piece of ribbon fades, or one of the coppers turn dark, it is a sign that the giver is ill, in trouble, or false, and the owner immediately sets to work to find out which. Of course, it is an infallible tost.

This is about as sensible as the bangle bracelet which was begged from one's "dear five hundred triends." Another new fad is the "paper pillow," which beats the pine pillow and the "over-lasting" pillow all out. To make them you tear the paper into very small pieces, not bigger then your finger nail, and then put them into a pillow sack of drilling or light ticking. They are very cool for hot climates, and much superior to feather pillows. The newspapers are printing appeals for them for hospitals. Newspaper is not nice for use, as there is a disagreeable odor from printer's ink, but brown or white paper and old envelopes are the best. As you tear them stuff them into an old pillow case and you can see when you get enough. The easiest way is to tear or cut the paper in strips about half an inch wide and then tear or cut across. The finer it is the lighter it makes the pillows. Some girls who have a fancy for making them give them to the hospitals, and in that way do some good with them.

The pretty double pillows to hang across the back of an easy-chair are as popular as ever. Some of them are as dainty as bon-bon cases; but it is best to make them of some good silk material that will not show dirt, or of the lovely "wash" silks. These latter are taking beautifully. I have seen