

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

SHAKESPEARE is generally credited with considerable knowledge of humanity and its ways, and he describes Romeo, the prince of lovers, as being rejected by the fair Rosalind only just before Juliet fell in love with him.

A certain John Scott once proposed to a Miss Allgood. While smarting from her disdain, he happened to enter a village church during divine service, and there for the first time saw the pretty Miss Surtees. He wooed her, and, as her father would have nothing to say to him, he induced her to elope, and this though three wealthy suitors were already at her feet. John Scott lived to be Earl of Eldon and Lord High Chancellor, and never regretted the day Miss Allgood rejected him.

Byron was refused several times. He proposed to Miss Millbanke, a great heiress, and was rejected, though the lady expressed a wish to correspond with him. He then proposed to another lady, and this suit was rejected, too. Nothing daunted, he renewed his proposal to Miss Millbanke, and this time received a very flattering acceptance. They lived together, however, very unhappily.

One of the most persistent suitors who ever proposed and was rejected was the eccentric Cruden, compiler of the concordance to the Bible. Miss Abney, who had inherited a large fortune, was the subject of his attentions. For months and months he pestered her with calls and letters. When she left home he had papers printed, which he distributed in various places of worship, asking the congregation to pray for her safe return, and when she returned home he issued others asking the worshippers to return thanks. Miss Abney never became Mrs. Cruden.

In the unwritten laws of the French patricians of old there was a clause which forbade a woman to appear outside her own house, except it were in the solemn splendor of her carriage, says a writer in *The Revue de Famille*. Her footman wore gold-embroidered liveries, her horses were faultless, but her coachman was not. If Mdme. de Pontecorvo had caused her aristocratic gilded carriage to stop during the morning, with its three lacqueys

on the footboard, among the crowds of laborers and merchants, she would have committed a great sin of ignorance, and would have been guilty of treason against good manners. But, though she herself might have thus blundered, her coachman would never have consented to give his aid in the matter. A marshal of France, obliged by the Emperor to mount guard, might perhaps dignify to obey; a head coachman would sooner give up his whip than commit a breach of the rules of polite society. He would deem it ridiculous to don his gorgeous livery, to wear the admiral's hat with its gold cockade, in order to go to the races of subalterns and middle-class folk. He reserved himself for driving to court or to Longchamps at the time of the fetes. Nothing, however, changes more rapidly than the laws of society. After the empire had been in existence for three years, few of the fads of its infancy remained. The woman of the world had not only assumed the grace and ease of a dancing master, the composure of a Mdme. de Campan, the conversational powers of a Mdme. de Genlis and the chic of a Mdme. de Chevreuse; she had also learned to ask for her horse or buggy to drive in the Bois, for her carriage to go shopping and for her state carriage to drive to court. Indeed, it had become obligatory to a woman to do these things in order that she might appear a person who had some self-respect, and one who does not consent to be shut up in her own house.

There are fashions in Maladies as well as in dress, and frequently the maladies are as little new as the "latest novelty" in dress, only they are both new to our attention, and therefore of special importance, says *The London Hospital*. We are inclined to think that in the matter of disease, "nerves" are especially absorbing attention at the present time, and are considered quite a feature of the present age. We ourselves are inclined to think that modern nerves are very much more like their older brethren. We have only to open the pages of the lighter literature of less than a century ago to read, with a mixture of amusement and contempt, of the "vapors," "swoons" and "sobblings" of the female element of

society, and of the nervous irritability of the stronger sex. Under the light of our present knowledge, we trace the prevalence of neurotic and hysterical conditions quite unconsciously placed before us, and treated very much as a matter of course. Bearing in mind that we live in an age of pressure and hurry, that nervous tendencies are detected and classified in an unhesitating and relentless fashion, quite unknown when "vapors" and "swooning" seemed to have been the correct characteristics of "truly lady-like beings," and the broken head of a post-boy was but a mild indication of irritation on the part of young men, we consider that modern minds may with reason abate some of their "nervous" fears as to the degeneracy of the age.

What is the correct method to pursue in preparing for a trip into dream-land, for there is a right as well as a wrong way? The business of disrobing should be so systematized that attending to all the little niceties included in the process will become after a while second nature. There is something more to be done, let me assure you, besides putting your hair up in curl papers and dabbing a bit of cold cream on your face if you would wake up in the morning looking fresh as a rose. In the first place, do not put off these important preparations until you are so heavily lidded that you are ready to omit everything belonging to the toilet. And now for the first step. Early in the evening your sleeping apartment should be thoroughly aired by dropping the window from the top and raising it at the bottom. Ten minutes will be quite sufficient for clearing the atmosphere. Now close the windows and allow the room to become thoroughly warmed, that you may not experience a chill while taking a rub down. Prepare a big bowl of tepid water, into which you besprinkle a small quantity of ammonia or borax. Take a Turkish towel, which is much better than a sponge, wring it out as dry as possible, and, grasping a corner in each hand, give the spine a vigorous rubbing. Have at hand another Turkish towel, and, as you bathe the body in sections, dry as quickly as possible. How your smooth white skin will glow as you start into action the sluggish circulation!