an afternoon tea or reception, of having a band to pley as a sort of accompaniment to the conversations. A band no doubt may and dees add to the cheerfulness are a prease to everybody else. Of all people they are the most difficult to manage. No lasting impression can be made upon them, as well try to write your name in water, nor can you lift them out of the sloughs of the scale of the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are strains?

If there is a vocalist present, the guests must present to manage. No lasting impression can be made upon them, as well try to write your name in water, nor can you lift them out of the sloughs of the scene of accompaniment to the conversations. A band no doubt may and dees add to the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are strains?

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If there is a vocalist present, the guests must presched to the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are always and dees add to the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are always and dees add to the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are always and the presched to the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are always and the presched to the cheerfulness and galety of the scene; but how few there are always and the cheerfulness

ed pop is are a greater torment of thomse res or their friends. They not only make a have of their own leves that are a hindrance to everybody else. Of all people they are the most difficult to manage. No lasting impression can be made upon them as well try to write your name in water, nor can you lift them out off the sloughs of despond they are always getting into. If they do not know what they want themselves how can anyone else know for them?

Some people are undecided through incapacity of the services of much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see too much all round a subject, and this unsettly see to much all round a subject, and this unsettly processed to particular them by lementations, hesitations, and sudden changes of front. The men who disappear on their horison are liable to particular them by lementations, hesitations, and sudden changes of front. The men who disappear on their wedding days are unhappy nesitators who have allowed their indecision to run away with them. Undecided women are the "bete hoires" or the shopman wedding days are unhappy nesitators who have allowed their indecision to run away with them. Undecided women are the "bete hoires" or the shopman and balance probabilities till the brain reels. Every moment the capacity for deciding grows less and desay while the proposition of the shop than the regrets Begin! Undecided people are dreafful to travel with. Till the eleventh hour takey cannot decided women are the capacity for deciding grows less and less to specify t

you have done with him.

Ten to one he will reappear, on one pretext or another, more or less to your dismay. But perhaps it is at bridge that the vacillating person is the greatest torment socially. Most of us have met him, and are familiar with his maddening ways. However much he knows about it, he never plays a good game. Think, hesitate, think again, and then play the wrong card! People who cannot make up their minds quickly, should never steer a boat, or drive a motor car. It is the wobblers who bring about the accidents! Watch them in London, at a crossing, and if you happen fo the wobblers who bring about the accidents! Watch them in London, at a crossing, and if you happen to be driving along in the country, pray that you may never meet the serpentining cyclist. He has a way of appearing at all the awkward corners, and will infuse an element of danger into the safest and most straightforward portions of the King's Highway. In love and war, and business the undecided are equally unsuccessful. Water is always running under the bridges. No one can be waited for. To decide on a wrong course, stick to it heartily, find it wrong and then alter it, is quicker in the long run than sitting on the fence. on the fence

In fact to make sure at the beginning of what is the wrong way, is not a bad method of finding out the right one. Anything is better than the hopeless in-

GOWNS AND GOSSIP

The pursuit of the new fashions seems to me the most fatiguing effort of all our modern activities, and you certainly have to be up in the morning early if you mean to catch fashion on the wing in these days.

First we have to put our waistbands up under our First we have to put our waistbands up mider our arms, anon we dangle our sashes round about our knees and then someone tells us with calm effrontery that the waist belt is now worn in the natural position! What is the natural position? I wish somebody would tell me, and I would fasten my belt into position with a hammer and tin-tack and would keep it there permanently. I hear that what the Parisians are pleased to call a modified Renaissance style is the latest thing in the Paris world. The "Empire" is dead, the "Directoire" is said to have taken a serious complaint which will very shortly cause its demise; and behold the straight-likirt, the long rever, theiclose cut sleeve and the plaque, worn by the ladies of Europe in the period of the revival of learning. A lady in Edward IV.'s reign wore a gown almost parallel to some of the models described—the bodice opening in a V. from shoulder to waist, with a plaque of embroidery shrouding part of the chemisette, and probably a band of fur round the hem of the gown, a fashion which in Paris, at the moment, is all the rage. Big round hats are no longer so fashionable, and toques are rapidly taking their place, especially huge fur toques or ruckled velvet turbans of Brobdignagian size. The toques are worn right over the eyes, and they are trimmed with long quills argusely eyed pheasant being a popular form of adornment, yieing with ostrich feathers cut like quills.

yieing with ostrich feathers cut like quills.

Velvet is a passion and is used both for coats Velvet is a passion and is used both for coats and skirts. The coats are slashed up at the sides and end in points; or else Princess dresses trimmed with heavy passementerie and the bands of fur I have already mentioned, are to be seen. Tight-fitting bodices may be looked forward to immediately, and we shall wear dresses in future with a separate coat, so they say; but we have said this so often before that one may be permitted to doubt whether for the ordinary morning wear the comfortable blouse bodice will ever be done away with altogether. For the smart reception gown there can be no doubt about it. Blouses are hardly ever worn now and the newest and certainly the nicest, are those made of very coarse tulle of the exact color of the gown they accompany, and the alternative choice is a blouse of ninon, or chiffon trimmed with chenille or soutache embroidery. Then again, long sleeves I hear are quite de rigueur. Then again, long sleeves I hear are quite de rigueur, even for evening wear. Tight transparent chiffon sleeves, such as were the fashion eighteen years ago. have come back with full vigor; but at the same time there are a great many gowns still made with sleeves which are cut to the elbow only, or are mere straps of

embroidery or figments of lace.

There is no "spring" to the new skirt. The curves and shapeliness are for the moment subordinated to and snapelness are for the moment subordinated to the desire for a quite straight effect. High waisted trimmings are much employed, but they are not in the smallest degree like the high waisted decoration of Empire style. Only millionaires can be "dressed" now-a-days. We can be clothed, we can be clean, but the attempt to follow in the wake of fashion would necessitate discarding every single garment one possessed every three months, while the home dressmaker would be in the chronic necessitate. sessed every three months, while the home dressmaker would be in the chronic position of picking her clothes to pieces, and life really is a little too short for that sort of thing. The whole gamme des couleurs ranges from palest Havana to deep earth brown, and includes all the reddish and mustardy tints which have ever been discovered by the skilful dyer. But of all the exquisite tones perhaps, what is best known as saule, pale willow green, is the most distinguished shade for afternoon gowns. It is superb in either satin, velvet or cloth, and shows up the depths of sable and any other good fur in the happiest manner. Anything more gorgeous than the furs which are worn in Paris and London can scarcely be imagined I hear. Quantities of chinchilla and ermine are employed, and a stole which has created quite a sensation which was made for a reigning princess was of chinchilla, with bands of ermine and old lace laid between, while the fastening took the form of an old barbaric buckle.

Fringe as a trimming has never been exploited to

barbaric buckle.

Fringe as a trimming has never been exploited to such an extent. All the draped dresses are tringed, the plaques of embroidery are scarcely complete without a border of colored pendant fringe, and tabs and tassels of the most splendifferous description adorn the capes and coats for evening wear.

AN EXCELLENT THING IN WOMAN

Who does not think with Shakespeare that a voice "ever soft, gentle, and low," is "an excellent thing in woman?" Yet, alas! this most excellent thing is fast disappearing from our midst, and the question arises, What is the cause?

What is the cause?

Is it the din and roar not of the battle, but of the motor-bus and van—that obliges people to raise their voices, and make themselves heard and noticed? Another suggested cause for the babel to be heard in a drawing room for an "at home" for example, is the practice that is so frequently followed now-a-days at

an," soft, gentle and low.

AN UP-TO-DATE DINNER FOR TWELVE

The following is the menu, and working menu, for a really smart dinner for twelve persons such as should be quite within the powers of any good plain cook, as none of the dishes are too elaborate, and they are most carefully arranged with a view to dishing up.

The Melon Cantalupe is merely a hot-house melon kept on ice, and served with powdered ginger, this is "all the rage" in London during the present season,



The La'est Dinner-Gown of cloud-grey ninon, trimmed with cut steel beads and padded grey silk embroidery.

and can be prepared beforehand, so as not to inte fere with the dishing up of the remainder of Many of the dishes are those well-known to every cook, such as are used every day, and I have, I think given the full particulars of all those which are in

any way, likely to be strange to my readers. The

Menu Melon Cantalupe Consomme a la Savoy Sole au Gratin Sole au Gratin
Langue de Boeuf a la Mirelle
Selle de Mouton
Faison
Mousse au Cafe
Tartellettes de Fromage

Glaces en Corbeille The working menu for which is as follows: Clear Soup a la Savoy Braised Tongue a la Mirelle Saddle of Mutton Spinnach and Browned Potatoes

Spinnach and Browned Potatoes
Currant Jelly, or Compote of Cranberries
Roast Pheasants
Bread Sauce, Crumbs, Potato Chips
Beetrout and Celery Salad
Coffee Mousse
Cheese Tartlets
Basket of Ices. Petits Fours The recipe for the Melon Cantalupe I have already given. The next item which needs description is the

Consomme a la Savoy

This is a good light-colored clear soup. Allow one quart and a quarter for twelve persons. For the garnish, take four chicken livers, and simmer for ten or fifteen minutes until tender. Cut into small dice. Add two tablespoonsfuls of cooked ham cut into dice, and some fine shreds of green tarragon. Make the soup very hot, and add the garnish. As there is the meion, with which to begin dinner and the soup is one which can be kept hot after being finished off, without spoiling in the least (except that the tarragon must be added just as the soup is dished), and the fish may also be made ready and keeping hot, this leaves the cook free to attend to the entree and the other hot dishes. The following are the recipes for the fish and

The following are the recipes for the fish and Sole Au Gratin will appear as such on the menu, as the appearance is better, but in reality flounder will have to be used,

as sole is unobtainable here. The fish is to be filleted. Allow one fillet to each person, with two over. Thick-ly butter two china gratin dishes, mix two teaspoonfuls of chopped parsley and one of chopped shallot, and sprinkle ball down the centre of the dish. Put seven fillets in each dish, arranging them neatly down the centre. Place the rest of the parsley and shallot over, dust with salt and white pepper and a squeeze of lemon juice. Cover with three tablespoonfuls of browned crumbs and some pieces of butter. Pour round a little fish stock and white wine and bake in a moderate oven for ten to fifteen minutes. Serve very hot in he dishes in which they were cooked.

Langue a La Mirelle. Braise a tongue early in the day, leave it in the liquid and make it hot when required. Take two very hot silver dishes and arrange down the centre of each a neat bed of mashed potatoes. Cut slices of the tongue and trim them neatly, place seven on each po-tato border with a slice of cooked tomato between each. Have ready a brown sauce made with the linice menu for a smart dinner, and you can see that it really is simple to prepare. Sherry should be served with the soup, and then sparkling wines, while liqueurs follow, as I stated above with the ices. As to expense, one cannot expect to give a dinner like the above, without a certain amount of expense, but I venture to say that for the kind of dinner, it is nothing out of the ordinary in the way of expense while it is more than ordinarily nice in the way of a menu.

PRINCESS GOLDILOCKS

Where is she to-day?
Where are the blondes of yester-year?
This is the question we are asking each other, where are the fair-haired people we used to admire, are they hiding? Or worse still, is the blonde type disappearing? Look where we will, brown or dark har predominate, this is no fancy, indeed there are some who tell us that the time is coming when the genuine golden-haired beauty will be as rare as the "copper" butterly, and that to have a head like. "copper" butterfly, and that to have a head like a wheatsheaf will be to proclaim aloud that the coiffeur's artful aid has been invoked.

Feur's artful aid has been invoked.

Fair hair is not only a beauty in itself, but for some unexplained reason or other, is generally accompanied by actual beauty.

Reviewing all our acquaintances who have been fair-haired, we find as a rule, that good features and fine eyes have gone with the pretty locks. If ever by any chance beautiful golden or fair hair is given to a any chance beautiful golden or lair half is given to a girl who is otherwise plain, the result is to, in a great measure, take off attraction from this plainness. Attention is attracted to the beautiful hair and, although it does not like beautiful eyes, or a good mouth, alter a person's expression, yet to my mind it helps a very great deal to compensate and beautify a homely face.

And another thing is, that so often though the face may be homely and the other features bad, the beau-tiful eyes, go along with the beautiful hair. But a word here, as to artificial "goldliocks." If a plain person has been born with dark hair, no dyeing ar tinting will ever make matters better, it will rather

of pansy-colored velvet with white fox furs.

make the face more noticeable, and it is a mistake to think that one will ever get hair to "match" one's fare better than that which we have been born with, there will always be something odd looking somewhere, so we need to be very careful how we resort to art.

Perhaps one reason why we associate fair hair with beauty, is because it belongs specially to youth.

The fair hair of childhood and infancy, how charm-

ing it is, whether flaxen or with gold tints, and ah. with what regret we watch it changing and darkening as it almost invariably does.

In the dear old fairy tales of our childhood, it is

We really cannot afford to lose the type, which for so long has been characteristic of the English peo-ples, and has afforded such opportunities of contrast

How are we to preserve it? Would it be any good to prehibit fair women meeting with dark men and

This combination often produces red hair they say, which glorious though some of it is, is not the same thing although for the consolation of the red-haired, let me say that they have the reputation of being very clever and spirited. And what exquisite shades of red there are, glorious warm tints, beloved by painters of all times!

- But we do not want to lose our blondes, our Princesses of the Goldilocks," can we do nothing to

It is one comfort that so far we have not lost our fair-haired little ones, and many types of them, "curly locks" by the cottage door may have a ruddy head, or a head of paiest gold, or light floss silk, and there are babies everywhere delictons babies, as fair haired as they make them. Also, that this beauty is so fleeting! There are other reasons for lamentation, more serious, it is true, than any we have mentioned yet.

Mr. Balfour has been telling us that to become dark-haired is to degenerate, the conquering races are always fair. They have certainly been so in the past,

to poet, novelist, and painter.

vice versa?

save them?

quor from the tongue, flavored thickened and browned. Pour round. With a bag and pipe, arrange roses of mashed potato round the edge of the potato horder, which should be wider than the slices of tongue, and peur the hot sauce round. Place the dishes in a baking tin, with hot water in it, and keep hot in the oven. In this way silver dishes may be placed in the oven (if of a moderate heat) but they must never be put on the hot shelves without protection. The saddle of mutton, and the roast pheasants with their various accompanying dishes need no description from me, all should be "done to a turn" as old-fashioned cooks say, and all should be served nice and hot, and the courses should follow on each other without long "stage waits." without long "stage waits."

Charming Evening Gown

silk, and showing the new method of knotting the tunic.

Bestreot and Celery Salad

is made as follows:

Cut crisp selery into small pieces, and put it in the centre of the bowl, make a border of sliced bestroot, and dress in the centre with whipped cream, flavored with salt and pepper.

Mousse Au Cafe

In the dear old fairy tales of our childhood, it is always the "fair maid with the golden locks" who is one of the earliest heroines we fall in love with and is perhaps responsible for some of our admiration for the blonde. There is the church-window type of fairness too, with hair much lighter.

Dorcases have it too, and widows putting in their mites, and little Shunammite's sons being reserved by prophets; very unlikely, most of them, to have had hair and complexions as represented, but they show very clearly how goodness and fairness have constantly been associated in the human mind.

Angels are always fair of course.

Mind you, I know everyone does not admire blondes, but I know also, that the large majority do and many of those who profess not to, have never seen a perfect blonde in their lives!

We really cannot afford to lose the type, which for Mousse Au Cafe

Take two souffle dishes and tie a band of white paper round to protrude three inches above the top. Have ready a teacupit of perfectly black coftee (it must be very strong). Put the yolks of three eggs in a basin, with four tablespoonfuls of castor sugar and the coffee. Whisk well, and stand in a pan of hot water on the fire and whisk until you have a stiff fasth (on no account let it boil, or it will curdle). Strain into a basin, and let it cool. Dissolve seven sheets of gelatine in half a gill of hot water. Whip the cream and the whites of three eggs. Stir the cream into the egg yolks (it is nearly cold by this time), then fold the whites lightly in, and then stir in the gelatine and continue to stir gently until it sets. Then pour quickly into the souffle dishes. When cold take away the paper. Make two wide bands (to form a cross of chopped pistachlo nuts, and fill the spaces with powdered maccaroon. This pudding can be finished early, and but away in a cool place until it is waited.

The Savoury Tartellettes de Fromage, are

The Savoury Tartellettes de Fromage, are merely finy tartlet cases of cheese pastry, filled with anchovy-flavored custard, garnished with a star of filleted anchovy. They are simplicity itself to prepare. They may be prepared and baked beforehand, and then made het when required. The ice too, is a very simple one, though it is an exceedingly practione, and looks most elaborate. Use any good cream ice, flavoring one half with strawberry and the other with vanilla. Place in little pretty paper cases and decorate with different glace fruits. Arrange in a silver (or silver and gold) wicker-work basket, and serve with petits fours and liqueurs. This is a very

but will they continue to be so in the future?

That is another question, and a deep one, and a think I had better finish my article here, last we go into deeps that will take an awful amount of wading through before we come to any solution of the question I had rather leave it with those who spend their time unaveilling such "knotty problems" as these time unravelling such "knotty problems" as these.

THE REVIVAL OF EARRINGS

come general. Hitherto it has been only the few who have favored the revived fashion, which in early and Mid-Victorian times was an all-prevailing one. Why a mode so becoming to most faces and rarely unbe-coming to any was allowed to lapse was doubtless one of fashion's fifful freaks, though it has been ascribed to the influence of the aesthetic few, who ruled it inartistic to suspend jewels from holes made in the ears, at that time the only way known to wear earnings. Widely different from the immensely long golden earrings worn in her youth by the late beloved Queen Victoria—to whom they were particularly becoming—were the tiny studs that timidly crept into fashlon after a long lange of vers. Diagnonds were fashion after a long lapse of years. Diamonds were the favorite stones for these minature jewels, and diamonds are so still, for the clusters that now glitter in pretty ears, although several small stones grouped together, are less costly than single large ones, which sometimes are as much as £1,000 apiece. Ropes of small pearls nearly two inches long, have been devised as a novelty for earrings, and are quaint, and ver pretty, though this is but one of the countless dainty devices for securing favor. Colored stones are worn with dresses of harmonizing tint. Amethysts look lovely with mauve, or indeed, any shade of purple, and this combination has for some time been a very favorite one with Queen Alexandra. The choice of earrings as regards the shape should be guided by the form of the face. A purely oval face will look well with earrings either long, or short, but it will often be found that a short full face is best suited with long carrings, and a long one, especially if thin, with those of shorter, broader make. The choice of these jewels, even more than others, as they are so near the face, requires much consideration both as to form, size, and color as their power is immense either to add refinement or to vulgarize the wearer. It is when the latter happens too frequently that the pretty trinket gets the ill-credit of being "common," and then alas! its day is done. Among Royalties who have faithfully adhered to the earnings are the Princess of Wales, who, among many others in her large collection, has some wonderful Indian gems given to her during her Indian tour.

The wearing of earrings is likely once more to be-

Indian tour.

Queen Victoria Eugenie of Spain, has worn earlings both before and since her marriage and looks remarkably well in them. Her Majesty possesses very pretty ears, features that are too often overlooked among other points of beauty, to which however, they can add greatly in a quiet inassuming sort of way. How beautifully well chosen earrings may set off some special type of beauty was strikingly illustrated the other day when Mr. Winston Churchill's bride, wore as her only jewels, her bridegroom's tactful wedding gift!

SOCIAL SNARES

Some little time ago I received a problem or trial in tact from one of my correspondents. It was couch-

ed somewhat as follows:
"Mrs. A. and Mrs. B. live in the same neighbor-"Mrs. A. and Mrs. B. live in the same neighborhood near a small country town. The former is poor, but of good family, and has many connections near her who visit her constantly; the latter is well off, but of no birth or breeding. Both have sons at the same school. One day Mrs. B. says to Mrs. A.: "I hope I may call on you. My son is very friendly with your son, in fact he has helped him out of many a scrape." What should Mrs. A. do? Personally, it seems to me scarcely possible that anyone, however lacking in breeding would have made such a request in so very crude and untactful a form without some reason, or some preliminary advances, not given in the problem.

But it undoubtedly embodies a difficulty often met with in society, the difficulty of repulsing people effectually; but at the same time civilly. Taking the above situation as it is revealed in the problem, and without any extenuating circumstances which might make Mrs. A. ready to know this very pushing lady. I should say she would be quite justified in administering a snub, and in showing the latter quite plainly that she has no desire for her acquaintance. As, however, they both live in the same neighborhood, the attuation is doubly awkward, and we are not told whether Mrs. B. knows people and whether Mrs. A. is likely to meet her constantly. If this is the case, I think she will have to let Mrs. B. rall on her, and either hope to be out when she does so, or take steps either hope to be out when she does so, or take steps to avoid seeing her, such as telling the servant to say, "not at home," when she calls. Mrs. A need not re-turn the call for some time, and of course need not accept her invitation, nor send her any. If, on the other hand Mrs. B. sees her way to avoid any direct intercourse with her, I see no reason why she should

submit to an acquaintance heing forced on her to which she much objects. I think she might say in a perfectly civil but very cool tone:

"It is very kind of you, but I am going away almost directly and do not know exactly when I return," or, if this is impossible, "I am so very busy just now, I am afraid I could not fix a day." The form must be civil, though the intention be the reverse, but anyone who would make so "gauche" a speech as Mrs. B. did, deserves a snub, and is pretty certain to get one. Of course the degree of acquaint-ance between the sons might make a difference. These situations are delicate, and require much tact to carry them off, but the woman of the world knows very well how to suppress and snub the person she does not wish to know, without being in the least rude, in ac-tual words, or manner.

POETICAL CLIPPINGS

Tears

Ah, what are tears?

Penance for harsh words spoken,
Solace for sad hearts broken,
Emblems of bitter sorrow, Balm of the coming morrow And future years. -Preston M. Willis.

Once a careless little boy
Lost his ball at play;
And because the ball was gone, A Foolish Boy . Threw his bat away.

Yes, he did a foolish thing, You and I agree; But I know another boy Not more wise than he.

He is old, this other boy, Old and wise as you; Yet, because he lost his kite, He lost his temper too.

A Song of Far Travel Many a time some drowsy oar 'Twixt uplifting and down-setting Crossed, a narrow stream, and bore In among the reeds moon-lighted; There to leave me on a shore

No ferryman hath sighted. Many a time a mountain stile, Dark and bright with sudden wetting. Lured my vagrant foot the while "Twixt uplifting and down-setting— Whither? Thousand mile on mile Beyond the last forgetting.

Still by hidden ways I wend, (Past occasion grown a ranger); (Past occasion grown a ranger); Still enchantment, like a friend, Takes from death the tang of danger; Hardly river or road can end Where I need step a stranger!

of casting

It is with peri floats do the air, a motion 1 a feather, cannot. such art that dry perfection fish upsti This, the streams the north rapid and not gener

Dry f with a si visibly for selects h for a cast casts in the fly is it alight fish and short or ed some it must l air two tackle be clumsine fore the will go o bungle o puts the it is rem close to sent dow

and a vas The with the little spo cial fly is as to floa fishing 1 make a so as to fish are with goo portant 1 the angle but the f the trout thing else fly fishin

to the ex has been Sometim fly actua well to the fish him. W cheerfull then alis floating appearthe wellsight of

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Perso can hand seven an found my tive than ment, an cannot g find it of The

tainly be common and even seasons his fly dr drop it li to pick i the dry tied on delicate eyes bein will not use flies.

Regar no rule no service slow mo forward a put the f lightly o reaches i that case ways be amount combine