

WOMAN'S WORLD.

BY OUR OWN REPORTER.

THE Easter bonnet and the Easter hat made their formal debut last Sunday, and after a critical survey of several hundred specimens that sat triumphantly on the heads of as many ladies...

One would think that packages of mixed flower seeds had been spilled into tiny baskets of fancy straw, and germinating under exceptionally advantageous conditions...

The fresh, new beauty of earth and sky will not be appreciated this spring, for our poor tortured eyes will have become so weary of these monstrous combinations of color in spring millinery...

Floral Confections. It is a trying ordeal for a woman to keep her mind in a prayerful attitude with a wide expanse of aggressive head dresses tastefully nodding their artificial blossoms before her.

There are many who believe that the designers had not a single new idea for the new spring millinery—and this would not be much wonder, for the ever-changing styles that are at all times so varied, make demands that are sufficient to exhaust the most resourceful minds...

Winow Draperies. The prettiest hangings that can be chosen for window draperies are those that are the very best curtains that are now manufactured. They are cool and clean, and give a charming effect when carefully disposed.

Shopping. The endless variety of fabrics laid out in the stores for inspection distracts the average buyer and makes selection a precarious and complicated venture that requires elaborate preparatory study.

Fetters of Fashion. Belts of blue black silk are very becoming to slender figures. Hats and shoes are dipped in the rainbows this year, and the latter will add green and purple to the vivid tints we have already seen.

WOMAN IN FINLAND. It is always a surprise to find that remote countries are not only on a level with us, but often in advance of us, along important lines of development.

New Gowns. Neutral tints are in high favor for costumes, but in all cases they are brightened with elaborate garnitures of bright silk or velvet, chiffon, lace, jewelled trimmings in combinations that are extremely pretty as well as unique.

Soft, delicate shades of gray, brightened with rose, cardinal, mauve or cerise trimming, blended with white or cream lace and chiffon, are chosen for elegant summer dresses.

The Eton Jacket remains a favorite, and this season's models are distinguished by extended fronts and an abbreviated back that permits the fancy belt to be seen.

One lovely dress pattern displayed recently was of silk and wool in green and purple shades, so interwoven that no distinct pattern could be traced, but yet it suggested the idea of a great bunch of purple pansies, with their own green leaves and stems, crushed through a loom and appearing again pressed and blended into a beautiful green and purple fabric that still retained a semblance of its original flower forms.

Some of the new tailor costumes have bolero fronts and narrow postilion backs. The vest beneath is a fitted blouse of fancy silk laid in soft folds across the front or else tucked to form a deep yoke.

In other cases the folds terminate in long scarf ends that are variously adjusted at the side, or often they are carried to the back and loosely tied like the scarf ends of a Marie Antoinette fichu.

The neck and shoulders receive the fullest attention in the new modes, and every sort of pretty material is abundantly used to beautify this portion of the costume.

Blouse and Bodice. The crossed or surplised blouse will be highly favored in making up toilets of rosebud organdies, striped muslins, printed lawns, soft India mulls, and similar diaphanous stuffs.

Dainty Neckwear. All the picturesque collars worn by stately dames of long ago are remodelled for present use, and the Medici, Queen Bess, Josephine and other styles of neckwear are in vogue, as well as an endless array of ruffs, bows, frills, ruffles, plain and turned-over linen collars, ties, scarfs, fichus, etc.

The man that diffuses gladness is a much truer philanthropist than he who scatters gold and silver for his fellowmen to wangle over.

"She always brings sunshine with her," was the comment of a dear old lady in speaking of a young girl who was in the habit of running in to see her. And there is nothing else one can bring to cheer that so helps to lift the weight of years.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," and a sunny presence will carry better cheer into a sick room than the choicest of medicinal pills.

Sighs are no less contagious than smiles, and unless a determined effort is made to smother one in cheerfulness, the contagious habit of sighing will in time demoralize an entire family.

Old people often sigh from physical weakness, and for such we can be patient. But perhaps if they had begun in their youth to sigh, they would have headed off the habit, and saved the impingement of this habit on the sympathies of their friends.

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One of these head curates so used is thus described by a writer in the N.Y. Post: From a French window was suspended a prettily blue head. Pale blue up near the pole, but a rich dark blue near the bottom, while across this azure background a light of swiss or swallows wing their way. Such a portion is made of heads solidly, with no joints of bamboo introduced, and while it shuts out a view of the interior completely from a person outside, to one within it merely reveals the view through a blue mist.

White muslins are not now so generally employed in summer cottages, their place being taken by pretty gauzes and pictured muslins imitating the pattern of the wall paper.

Black and white striped silk make some of the most stylish blouses. Tucks are the favorite decoration on light materials and even velvet and other heavy goods will soon be subjected to the same treatment.

English tailor made coats have no gathers at the top of the sleeves. Many of the new skirts are shirred up in a cord at the waist and give a mild effect around the hips.

The "sunburst" we hear of, but we have not seen. The reason appears to be a desire to preserve for the press the secret of its successful making.

It is always a surprise to find that remote countries are not only on a level with us, but often in advance of us, along important lines of development.

For instance, Finland makes a very remarkable showing in the development of higher education for women. Two societies according to a recent summary of the situation in the "Nation" have been formed for the purpose of improving the condition of women.

For more than a quarter of a century the gymnasias, or secondary schools, have been open to both sexes, and at present from forty to sixty girls pass the final examination every year. There are now more than two hundred women attending the different courses of lectures at the University of Helsingfors, and fifteen years ago the degree of M.A. was conferred for the first time upon a woman.

For some time past a woman has been one of the leading physicians of the town. So far the women of Finland have not developed any notable literary talent, but they are showing great taste for art, and it is said that more than forty per cent. of the persons represented in the art exhibition held at Helsingfors last spring were women.

The women in Finland vote in local and communal affairs, and are eligible to office as members of school boards and as directors of charitable institutions and almshouses of all kinds. They are also largely employed in the public service, more than one thousand women finding positions in post offices, railway and telegraph offices and other departments. It is said that at least three thousand are engaged in banking and commercial houses, and that more than one-third of these are either part owners or independent managers of the business in which they are engaged.

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THE HABIT OF SIGHING. One of the most depressing of human beings as a companion, says a writer in Harper's, is the person that is always sighing. The last sound heard at night, and the first to greet us in the morning, with no end of repetition during the day, is a long-drawn, sob-like respiration.

A genuine outburst of grief that would spend itself, and be over, would be far less wearing for the one compelled to listen to it, just as a good stiff blast is more easily borne than the weary wind that howl after hour moans and sighs, or a pouring rain than a continuous drizzle.

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when united to Louis, and Catherine of Russia was 33 when she seized the throne she occupied for thirty-five years. Mlle. Mar was most beautiful at 45, and Mme. Recamier between the ages of 35 and 55. The most lasting and intense passion is not inspired by two decade beauties. The old saw about sweet sixteen is exploded by the truer knowledge that the highest beauty does not dwell in immaturity.

A CRIPPLE FOR LIFE. SO DOCTORS SAID CONCERNING RICHARD B. COLLINS.

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best of May, they discovered that my trouble was disease of the hip joint, and advise I go to an hospital. I went to Toronto and stayed in the hospital five weeks, and then returned home. I, however, did not recover, and was compelled to bring the following summer to go back to the hospital, where I remained three months, getting worse all the time.

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Household Hints. A monotonous diet is not adapted to the proper development of the race or the individual.

Nuts and fruit, though they may keep for a long time, should never be eaten after the flavor becomes impaired.

For scalded feet, chop the cooked meat very fine.

Preserved ginger, cut in thin slices, is a nice variation for sandwiches.

Wormwood boiled in vinegar and applied as hot as can be borne on a sprain or bruise is an invaluable remedy.

A POINT TO REMEMBER. If you wish to purify your blood you should take a course of...

Mr. Pumpsy, M.P. You'd like to be present at a sitting of parliament? Well, my dear man, I'll see if I can get you an order for the gallery.

Mr. Husheroff—Is there too much sea-sickness in the turkey, Mr. Billings? Billings—No; I should say there is too little turkey in the seasoning.

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