

## OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

The Empress of Austria, it is stated, not only smokes from 50 to 60 Turkish cigarettes a day, but during the course of the evening also smokes several "terribly strong cigars." This acts as a sedative on Her Majesty's nervous temperament, and has become almost indispensable to her, and in spite of what doctors may say to the contrary, we are assured that the habit has not impaired the "pearly whiteness of the smoker's lovely teeth." The Empress' affection for her ladies-in-waiting depends, we learn, very much on their skill in horsemanship. To those who rode well she was exceptionally kind and indulgent, but had no sympathy whatever with those who were not perfect horsewomen.

A London (Eng.) correspondent of the *Toronto Empire* writes: "There have been symptoms for some months that several ladies in fashionable society are disposed to rebel against the wearing of gloves. When the fashion has been thoroughly set and duly sanctioned and endorsed by ladies of fitting rank, it will be largely followed. Fashion has hitherto laid down the rule that no lady should permit herself to be seen out of doors without her gloves, and the result has been the anomaly that a lady was more concerned about concealing her hands than her shoulders or her back. The spectacle can, however, now be seen of ladies—who, it must be owned, are still extremely few in number—sitting in theatres and public places with uncovered hands; and as the custom can be recommended both on the ground of economy and vanity, not to speak of considerations of gracefulness and beauty, the delicious feminine instinct will soon assert itself pretty generally in all places of public resort. The sparkle of rings on the finely-moulded and emancipated fingers, a graceful hand artistically displayed, the freedom and unconventionality of the new fashion, will all exert their influence in the feminine mind in favor of the novelty. Logic also is entirely in favor of the daring innovators, of whom, for example, Lady Gray Egerton is one. Why should a lady, it may be asked, be doomed to wear gloves when she is not compelled to wear sleeves?"

The favorite materials for yachting gowns this summer are the mauve serges (which are generally preferred for this purpose to the hop sackings because they are more serviceable) and the various ducks and other linens, piques and heavily-figured cottons which have so suddenly sprung into favor. One of the most conspicuous of the revivals of old time goods is the grass cloth, so called because it is the color of the linen when it is spread on the grass to be bleached. Some of these linens are the dark gray color which the flax acquires after its long soaking before bleaching. Others are a pale ecru, and others are a buff color. The most popular material after serge is white duck, which may be sometimes faced with color, but is often made with no trimmings except the

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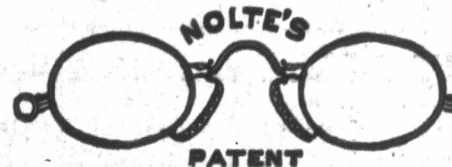
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large white pearl buttons, which are sewn through instead of being put on with a shank. Where pure white is not becoming, a duck suit in buff or white, striped or checked with hair lines in black or color, is chosen. Thus a pale ecru linen is cross-lined with red, and is worn with a red silk shirt waist and a four in-hand tie. Plain pink or blue cambric shirt waists are worn with blue serge suits. Linen suits are made up with Derby jackets and Spanish skirts, which have a fitted flounce, covering about one-third the depth of the skirt, giving the fashionable flare at the sides and back, and fitting smoothly to the upper part of the skirt, without any gathers. A little waistcoat, figured with dashes of red, and made with a notched revers, which discloses a white shirt front and a red four-in-hand tie, completes the outfit; or the ecru linen suit may be worn with a pale blue or red silk shirt waist, and the waistcoat dispensed with.

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