

DOTS AND DASHES.

THROUGHOUT the fabric of social life there runs a marvelously fascinating pattern, it is that of organized effort. The day of clubs has dawned; women and men associate together for the sake of achieving all sorts of good. The figure is woven into every corner of the fabric. Women organized to study home-making, child-rearing, physical culture, mental attainments; and to prosecute the various schemes of philanthropy which are originated. Men organize, too; for business and pleasure, however, more often than for self-improvement. In Victoria, the number of clubs has increased wonderfully during the last year or so, and the various other leagues are multitudinous. Among the organizations for literary pursuits, two or three are planned exclusively for women, who meet mornings or afternoons. Were it not that business is incidentally a strong means of mental culture, there would be considerable danger of woman's outstripping man. This will never take place, however, so long as man spends eight or ten hours daily in the effort to unravel knotty problems and to push weighty schemes. His power will always be greater, though he may lack something of the symmetrical grace and beauty which comes with dreaming over poetry and analyzing the cause and effect of history. In many of the clubs, men are associated with women in pursuing different studies; very rare, however, is the exclusive man's club for this purpose; the masculine mind leads to physical sports, to the green cloth and clicking balls, to the midnight lunch of Welsh rarebit and ale, and the indulgence in a fragrant weed and a social hour in a lounging room. This is a natural result of the hard day's work, the tired mind seeks rest in a complete change. Among the women of leisure a sturdy effort of the brain powers is a change and a wholesome one. So as a rule they do better work than men when they are associated together, a fact which they should not plume themselves over too much, considering the difference in their daily life from that of the business man.

If Columbus could only know how much his efforts of 400 years ago were appreciated he would be very glad

that he undertook the job, although the pay at that time was small. Columbus did a great act with intrepidity, nerve and sublime confidence and discovered a good country. It is a pity that the brave Genoese was unable to come out here and discover James Bay Flats, but the traveling facilities were poor then, and moreover, I am informed from a reliable source that he had lost his mileage book and had spent the last diamond ring that Isabella had given him. Some unappreciative and small souls criticize Columbus for this neglect, but the general verdict is that he accomplished faithfully all that was called for in his contract. After a man has discovered a large-sized continent he has done enough, and Columbus was satisfied with his work and was generous to leave the discovery of James Bay Flats, to the disease breeding germs. That showed the magnanimity of his character, and instead of being criticised for leaving his work half done, he should be praised for his consideration and generosity. So give Christopher Columbus all praise, and help to make the anniversary of his cruise a glittering success.

Every one who has an inmate love of the harmonies delights in music. In order to produce an effect on the human soul, there must be the interblending of male and female voices. The reason is obvious. The male voice of man is basso and his tenor his female voice. Soprano is the female voice of women and contralto is her male voice. To marry these voices is to vitalize them to the fullest, so that they will become one in harmony, although different in harmonies. Some churches do not marry the masculine to the feminine. They repudiate female singers altogether and employ boys. A reader of the classics rarely fails to remember that Virgil's songs were addressed to boys in the pagan days of Rome and to feel a consequent disgust. Boys have no voices. Their tones are constantly in a transition state and musically imperfect. Train them as choristers as a church will, there will ring out the harsh discordancy of the gosling. It is different with females who have adult voices. While there is really no sex in boy voices, the adult female voice is full of sex, and the tender

strains of a hymn are apparent and unite with the artificialism of an organ in an effective manner. Boy choristers are a makeshift, a misfit, a preposterous innovation on the religious use of women. Fashionable folly has made them a part of church service, but reform should relegate them to a less unostentatious position. There are thousands of people who go to church who have in their hearts a silent protest against the practise of eschewing female singers in the choirs. It was common in the old mythological days to do that, but we are living in the nineteenth century, and do not wish any return to pagan worship and practice. Choirs should always be of men and women, with full, healthy and mature voices.

If women insist upon appropriating the bicycle she should adopt a costume in which she can derive both benefit and comfort from the exercise. A design of a healthy and becoming costume, in which entire freedom of movement can be obtained and the use of the corset dispensed with, is thus described: It consists of zouave trousers, very full, fastened just below the knee; a blouse waist with full sleeves gathered into a cuff, a zouave jacket trimmed with braid, a yachting cap and buttoned leggings over bicycle shoes; undergarments of flannel, consisting of long-sleeved vest and drawers. The blouse, which should be of tan-colored flannel, will require two and a half yards, 36 inches wide; the trousers and jacket, which should be of dark blue or green cloth, would require five yards of flannel, 36 inches wide. The trousers must have at least two yards fullness in each leg and be gathered or plaited on to a pointed yoke. Gauntlet gloves of tan color and tan leather leggings; cap of dark blue or green to match the costume. For a stout person a buttoned corset waist may be worn beneath the blouse.

THE CHILL AUTUMNAL DAYS.

"We might as well consider our engagement as broken, Reginald."

"I don't see why! Your father said postponed."

"Postponed until you arrived at the years of discretion. And in your case, Reggy, dear, you know what that means."