## Interesting for Women.

There is a general but, mistaken belief that France is the only country where marriage is arranged by parents with little or no regard for the child-ren's feelings or wishes. As a matter of fact, this condition of affairs obtains to a much greater extent in Greece, where such a thing as a love match is where such a thing as a love match is practically unknown. The Greek father is particular that the intended husband has ample wealth to support a wife and family. For a girl a dowry is not so important as in France, but a certain amount of linen and household furniture is generally required. The whole training and education of a Greek girl is simply a preparation to render her brilliant in society.

The German middle-class girl avowedly gives herself up to housekeeping, knitting, sewing and cookery. sober brown gowns are so much like one another as are so many peas, and the majority are put together by her own hands. She knows and gets the full value of every kreutzer she spends, and her coffee and cakes are unsurpassable. For recreation she goes with her family to the "gardens" on summer evenings and knits while she listens to the music. Everybody in Germany who lives within reach of concerts and theatres walks to them, and, as they begin early in the evening, late hours and extra suppers are not usual. Dwellers in the country are contented with the daily round and common task, and restlessness seems unknown. The German girl is not, as a rule, ambitious. sober brown gowns are so much like

A clever woman physician says that she believes that the first and most important step in education should be a knowledge of fundamental physiological laws, ignorance and disregard of which bring about conditions of body which bring about conditions of body which hinder or prevent entirely a perfect performance of the duties of life or an enjoyment of its pleasures. There is really nothing new in the suggestion but it releases the properties by the contract of the contrac life or an enloyment of its pleasures. There is really nothing new in the suggestion, but it is always timely. It is the doctrine of Herbert Spencer, and his precepts are being more or less followed by school children. Rules for health and self-preservation are given out by workers in many lines of sociological work among the poor. Such physiology, the doctor believes, should be taught thoroughly—not the number of bones in the human body but a general knowledge of the laws by which it is governed.

'A recent article in a French magazine upon famous diplomats and their wives relates a suggestive little ancedote of how Prince Clemens Metternich, when Austrian chancellor of state, slipped out of a difficulty that threatened to be quite a formidable one. His wife, the erratic Princess Melaine, had gricvously offended the French ambassador, the Count de Flahault, by the abruptness and discourtesy with which, in one of her moods of whimsical ill temper, she had chosen to treat him. Her tongue was notably sharp, and some of her remarks stung so deeply that the aggrieved official went formally to her husband to complain of her, asserting that he could not, in his quality of ambassador, submil to such insulting treatment. Prince Metternich was not at all disconcerted. With a generally apologetic snrug, but in a tone of voice expressive of the most gallant devotion to his consort, he ecolaimed: "What would have, my dear count? I met the princess; I loved her; I have married her; but it was not I who brought her up." relates a suggestive little ancedote of

The latest court gossip insinuates that Queen Wilhelmina of Holland is about to be presented with that most exclusive of all decorations — the ancient and honorable Order of the Garter.

She will be the first woman thus honored by an English sovereign in tyce ored by an English sovereign in two centuries, and the only woman, with the exception of Queen Victoria, who has the honor to wear this garter about her left arm. There are fifty-four Knights of the Garter, not including the queen. Wilhelmura will make the fifty-fifth. The order was founded, it will be remembered, in 1349 by Edward III., and whether it owes its origin to an armour or to an accident is still a mooted question. Some 547 years since the lovely Counters of Salisbury dropped her gerter in the preis still a mooted question.

years since the lovely Countess of Salisbury dropped her gerter in the presence of her severoign. The courtiers and grande dames accused the fair countess of a lack of modesty. The king, however, picked up the dainty garter, and, handing it to the countess, said: "Honi soit qui mal y pense" "Evil to him who evil thinks." Of late years Queen Victoria has abandoned wearing the garter, as her arm has become too stout. The young Queen of Holland has a beautiful arm which will serve as a charming setting for the descration.

In the heraldry of birth, if a man is born in October he will be handsome. but will be poor in this world's goods. A woman born on October will be endowed with coquetry and beauty, but she is likely to be unhappy unless she wears an opal. The opat is therefore the birthday stone for October. Many people have a curious superstition she is likely to be unnappy unless snewers an opal. The opat is therefore the birthday stone for Ootober. Many people have a curious superstition that the opal is an unlucky stone. The ancients venerated it, however, as a stone of good omen, and invested it with power to banish evil spirits, to inspire pure thoughts and to induce sweet dreams. They called it the "love stone." Pliny tells of a Roman senator who possessed a beautiful opal, which was coveted by Marcus Antonius, who wished to present it to Cleopatra. The senator refused to part with the jewel, and was finally exiled in consequence. Sir Walter Scott, in "Anne of Geierstein," used the opal and its uncanny element to heighten his weird story. In fact, the realistic effect of this story was such that the jewelers of the eighteenth century, who had invested largely in opals, were forced into bankruptcy. Most of the precious opals come from Czenowitz, in Hungary. Opals of less value are found in Mexico and Calorado. The Australian opal is almost black. Tongues of flame shoot out from them, making them at times very brilliant. It will be remembered that the superstitious Spaniards believe that the misfortunes of the present dynasty have been caused by an ill-omened opal, given by a neglected beauty and adventuress to Alfonso XII. less than a quarter of a century ago.

#### NUCLEUS OF A FORTUNE.

Municipal authorities of Mons, Belgium, have just adopted a resolution which will prevent children from heing born paupers in that city. Every child born in Mons, after being registered officially, will have a bank account opened in its name with the City Savings Bank. The authorities will deposit one franc for the infant, who when he arrives at a sufficient age, will find this as a nucleus to augment with his penny savings. The original deposit of one franc cannot be drawn at any time, but the interest accruing in ing is the property of the young de-

#### BUY ON CREDIT.

Foreigners in China buy nearly everything on credit, giving signed "chite" for every purchase, the reason being their unwillingness to load themselves down with silver or native coin while paper money fluctuates too much

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