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## OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

### EVOLUTIONS IN FASHION.

Nothing is more strange, writes the Paris correspondent of the *Warehouseman and Draper*, than to watch the evolutions of fashion, the birth, growth and fall of each new idea, or its gradual transformation. Nowadays, fashion proceeds by gradual development, rather than by fits and starts, as it used to do, and those who care to study the productions of all seasons will find therein the germs of future styles as well as the reflection of those that have preceded it. Thus, in the materials prepared for early winter, we find chameleon-like combinations of colors which may easily be traced back to that most successful novelty of last season, the Velours Russe, which was, on its side, an outcome of the ribbed cloths and crepons on the one hand, and of shaded and shot silken fabrics on the other. At the same time, the vogue for plaids, which increases as the summer wanes, has had a marked effect on the fabrics brought out for autumn and early winter. One class of woollen shows these plaids in their usual brilliant tones and broad outlines, whereas another exhibits them in a soft and blending form, recalling the shaded and shot tissues of last spring. But even the former are not servile imitations of those that have gone before; British tailors and others—especially dressmakers, who provide the costumes of our little folk—will use a certain amount of tartan, more than commonly, doubtless, but the choice of the majority will fall in preference on the new French adaptations of the plaid form. These consist for the most part of the materials stripped in wide bands of black and navy blue, black and bottle green, or of dark green and blue interwoven with crossed lines of bright colors, scarlet and yellow predominating, with now and again a narrow line of white. The texture itself affects the corded style. We have here woollen reps, Lyons poplin, poplins proper and Sicilienne, both of French manufacture. As for the crossed lines, they are sometimes of wool with a satin finish, but more often of silk thread, which adds to their brilliance. The less severe styles of plaid made of the softly blended tones deserve special attention from their greater novelty. At times, the semi-defined plaid appears as a background to equally misty stripes, detached patterns of a very simple order of design and diagonal weavings. Now the stripes will be composed of dotted lines, now of consecutive bands made up of several shades. The patterns are generally woven in relief, often in silk, and will exhibit a rudely formed spot, star or flowerlet; while the diagonal interweavings are usually little ribs or shaded twilled lines, running right across the material in a sloping direction, and are similar to those that appear in the chevrons of last year, when the lines met in a single point in the centre of the breadth, or were carried from selvage to selvage in zigzag. In some cases, the relative position of the two designs is reversed, and the plaid stands out more or less clearly on a mottled, curiously shaded chevronne or diagonal background. Somewhat the same effects are reproduced in silk, prominent stripings of which pile, or satin overlaying ghostly-

looking tartans or plaids, lines cutting up fancy materials into large squares. The great idea seems to be to introduce as many colors as possible, the result, so far as woollens are concerned, being that the general tone is soft and restful to the eye; the silks, though brighter, are equally harmonious, being iridescent or of metallic radiance. Shaded velvets have suggested shaded woollen and mixed fabrics, the shadings, as in the former, growing from light to dark every six or eight inches. Many of the new woollens are rough, and there seems to be a tendency also to make them thick; thin, plain cloth will be reserved for special purposes, and no longer used as a dress material, its place being taken by coarse grained serge and a hairy make of Indian cashmere, both of which are produced with running lines of color and floral sheavings, as well as plain. Among the rougher woollens are sometimes interwoven with dotted lines formed of knotted threads, but influenced by this general tone of fashion they follow a certain order and comprise sketchy stripes and plaids.

### PROGRESSIVE CONVERSATIONS.

A substitute for progressive euchre has been found in progressive conversation. The game originated in the fertile brain of two women, who, owing to their inability to "take a hand" in the prevalent pastime, invariably found themselves on the ragged edge in all village social gatherings.

One was a minister's wife, who could not play from principle; the other was constitutionally unable to learn the science of any card game. Not to be outwitted, they put their heads together and the conversational progressive party is the result.

The limit is six tables. Four persons sit at each. A daintily decorated card bearing on one side the number and on the other twelve questions is laid on the table. Four minutes' discussion of each question is allowed every guest. By the time the six tables have exchanged, every question will have been discussed by every guest. Each table votes upon the best conversationalist, and the aggregate of votes declares the victor, to whom a prize is awarded.

Imagine a clever company discussing the following questions which were propounded at a recently brilliantly successful progressive conversational party:

1. What gift, as a woman, would you prefer before all others?
2. What city is the most beautiful that you have seen?
3. Of all the works of fiction of the day, which has attracted you the most?
4. Jokes or bon-mots, which occur to you as good?
5. Ought not women to wear their best costumes to Sunday services, and if not, why not?
6. What sound in all your life has moved you most?
7. Who do you wish elected as President?
8. Why do we prefer fast trains when we are in no haste?
9. What occupation would you prefer if compelled to seek employment?
10. What do you regard as the best way to "loaf and invite one's soul?"
11. The modern thralldom of women servants.
12. The pianoforte—do its tortures outweigh its pleasures?

London requires some women to act as sanitary inspectors, is the opinion of Dr. Corner, medical officer for Poplar. With the help of efficient women working among the poor he thinks epidemics might be nipped in the bud. Glasgow already has six women inspectors, who are doing an admirable work.

Mrs. Ainsworth has just received, for the eighth time, the northern championship honors of England. Those who have never before heard of Mrs. Ainsworth or her honors should be impressed by the announcement that she is the most famous archer in Europe, and that year after year she walks off with the choice collection of medals and clubs offered by various clubs. The lady's proud position has inspired others to effort in the same field, and England now boasts of dozens of women whose hope of some day defeating her lends a peculiar charm to life.

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