



The New Bonnets—Smart Coats—The Education of Girls—Diamonds—A New Dish.

The new bonnets, I am glad to say, are undoubtedly a trifle larger than they were, and though they are of fantastic shapes, there is decidedly more of them on the head. Here is one that is made of gold tissue embroidered with cabochons of jet and some imitation swallows set on in front and at the back, and you will see it quite covers the head. There is a great difference of opinion in the matter of wearing strings to bonnets. Those who wear mantles or jackets with very high collars scarcely need them, for they reach nearly up to the ears. For my own taste I think that strings suit English faces best, and that they give a more complete look to a bonnet than without them. Therefore I have chosen one that is bordered with violets, the foundation being of deep green *crêpe lisse*, sprinkled with tiny

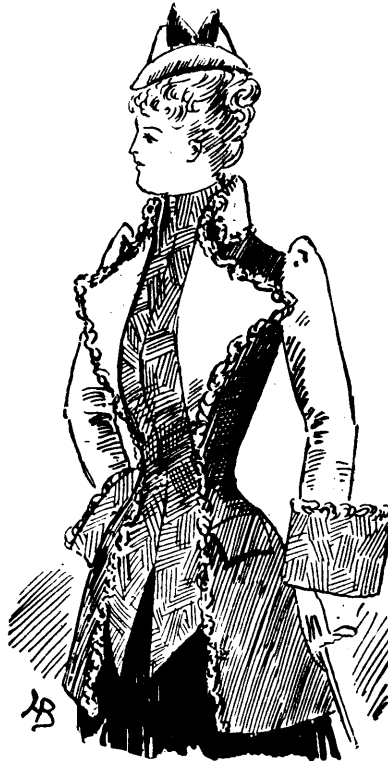


specks of gold, and a knot of dark green velvet at the back, which also forms strings. These are not always tied in a bow, but very frequently the ends are fastened up under each ear by pins with ornamental heads to them. As to hats, though they are worn very large at present, it is as well for those who are thinking of buying their summer millinery not to invest in any with very wide brims, as

they will not last long in fashion, but to choose a more medium width. Wide ribbon is a very favourite trimming, and I will give you sketches of two ways of disposing it on the various kinds of open straw of which hats are now made. You will find as the season progresses that the back of the very wide-brimmed hats will no longer be turned up to show the hair behind, but actually cut away to give place to it. Of course every kind of spring flower is worn on hats, but the small varieties are preferred. The small boat-shaped hat now so prevalent at race meetings, will, I prophesy, soon be very common, just because it is a shape that is wonderfully becoming to everyone

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Smart coats are very much worn over plain skirts, and they are useful for an intermediary costume between a regular mantle and a thin walking-dress. I give you the design of a French one that is made of black velvet with sleeves, revers, waistcoat, and cuffs in a dull shade of helio-



trope or fawn. The cuffs and waistcoat are embroidered or braided with silver or gold. Silver is more fashionable than gold just now, but is more costly as it does not last so long. The border may be either of heliotrope, or fawn feather trimming, in a darker shade or of black. This same coat looks well with the heliotrope part in white cloth or silk.

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The education of girls ought to be good nowadays, for the advantages and assistance obtainable have become so much more numerous, and so very superior to what they were even twenty years ago. Education—so called—by which I suppose we mean all that is included in the word "English"—two or three modern languages, a smattering of Latin and possibly Greek, also of science in two or three departments, may be procured wonderfully cheaply and reasonably. But I find from the letters of my girl friends, especially those who live in rather out of the way places, far from any town or centre of education, that they seem rather at a loss how to employ themselves. Even with a certain amount of household work to attend to, no girl or woman need become a mere household drudge. Home duties, whenever there are any, *must* come first in a woman's life, and I have no sympathy nor approval for the young ladies who go out as nursing sisters to the poor, with an invalid father, mother, brother, or sister at home, neglected in consequence, and who should receive their first attention. But even to all home duties, every girl may join some pursuit or occupation which she may turn to account, either by learning something which will give her that power that knowledge brings, or by earning something which will help her to that independence which money gives. I have long thought that all girls should have a trade put into their hands when they are young, and taught

some employment by which, in addition to an intellectual education, they might be able "to turn an honest penny," should dark days ever befall them. Great discrimination should of course be used in *what* they are taught of any kind. I look upon it as worse than injudicious, in fact downright wrong to force girls to learn music and drawing, and indeed many other things if they have no natural ear for one, nor eye nor taste for the other, and where there is absolutely no need to learn them. It wastes valuable time and money, and is not a wholesome discipline in any sense of the word. It certainly is best however, and most for their happiness that every girl, (and boy too) should have an object in life other than the one that is too often made the one paramount idea and thought, namely marriage. There are few unkind things than for wealthy parents to condemn their children to a life of idleness. One hears sometimes, "Oh, Jack will never need to work, he is amply provided for," or "My girl will have such and such an amount, on her wedding day, and be quite independent of her husband." The result generally is that each of these young people are idle good-for-nothings, whose one object is their own enjoyment, the pursuit of which affords them no pleasure. No girl (nor boy) should be too well off to learn how to employ themselves. This is why our great and noble Prince Albert was so wise as a father. He had his little lads all taught to do carpentering and many other useful handicrafts, which they used to follow in their own little workshop at Osborne, and elsewhere. And to girls, our beloved Princess of Wales sets a bright example, for before she was married, and was only a simple Danish princess without much means for so exalted a station, she used to make her own dresses, and trim her own bonnets, and, I am told, was very clever and tasteful about it. Never let your girls and boys hang about and be idle, even when they are quite little; always plan something for them to do regularly, if only two hours out of the day, and you will make them useful and happy members of society. What more odious thing is there than a man who has nothing to do and idles about in everyone's way at home?—and how we women despise him and wish him farther. But how truly we are ashamed of the lazy do-nothing girl, who only reads novels all day and throws away "God's great gift of time."

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Diamonds are certainly glorious stones, and doubtless the most brilliant of gems, but we have still a more sparkling and glistening ornament than diamonds. Amongst the greatest novelties are the new jewels made to contain electric lights. Many people who have seen the *coryphées* of the theatre ballets suppose that they are the only people who wear such decorations. But such is not the case; and these dainty little adornments are made in a variety of forms which can be worn by anyone provided they can manage to dispose of the small accumulator in some manner that is not visible. Very pretty pins are made for the hair with a tiny spark of light in their heads. At a recent bazaar I saw a well-known lady wearing a real pink rose fastened to her throat, and like a shimmering dewdrop was a little electric light placed in it, which threw up a wonderful gleam. Brooches can be made to contain the spark, and I doubt not the invention might be far more widely developed, if only the accompanying little bottle-shaped accumulator can be stowed away out of sight.

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A new dish I claim to have invented, and I hope some of my kind readers will do me the honour to try it. I presume that most people know what an ordinary lemon sponge is, as described in the cookery books; well, instead of making a purely lemon sponge use the juice of only one large lemon, and whip in by degrees three tablespoonfuls of raspberry jelly; colour the sponge with a little cochineal and when cold you will have a very ornamental sweet dish, which should be served with custard round it. Raspberry jelly is made like currant jelly—without the seeds that I think make raspberry jam so unpleasant.

"I RETURN the inclosed manuscript," wrote the editor of a religious weekly, "simply because I am so full at present." The contributor replied that when the editor's foot was over he would be glad to submit the manuscript again.—*What We Do.*