



SCOTCH DYE WORKS

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The Ladies' Column.

Such strange things have been used lately for dinner-table decoration—odd lengths of dresses, old silver gimcracks, flowers stuck in satin sacks instead of sensible vases, ribbons by the yard and vegetation by the peck—that an aquatic notion ought to take, as a change. Very handsome shells, equal to jewels in looks, can be purchased at very reasonable prices. Several kinds, with delightful mother-of-pearl effects, come to sixpence each, as a rule. Coral in all its branches is a pretty and instructive sight, when clean and fresh. An aquarium as a centre-piece, stacked about with these oceanic trophies, might give the plush and plate embellishments a rest; and gold and silver fish floating round would be as pretty to gaze at as anything. I would leave out water-snails, sea-slugs, and newts, as they sometimes make non-scientific people feel squeamish, especially the newts. They are not nice enough to place so close to one's dinner, even with glass between.

Ca pue de lor; and the expressive, if rather vulgar, phrase appears to have influenced the New York belles, who have discarded gold in their ornaments and jewellery, and replaced it with silver, and—iron! In the latter material some really “elegant” chains have been turned out, the links being made of metal of various shades and temper; and it is hardly necessary to state that the acute jewellers charge just as highly as for the more costly material; the labour, the chasing, and the design—to say nothing of the novelty—being alleged as an excuse for keeping up the price.

Another and a prettier craze has temporarily found favor among maids and the matrons in Fifth Avenue and its aristocratic vicinities. This is the painting on the arm, neck, shoulder or breast, gorgeous butterflies, or brilliant blossoms. Special artists are making large sums by “hand-painting” designs on the cuticle of their clients, as much as fifty dollars having been paid for a “Camberwell Beauty,” reproduced in oils on the shoulder of a daughter of the house of Astor. In certain “sets” a flower, or one particular butterfly, forms a badge of *entree* into the inner circle of confidence and scandal; and the *remions* of the Joireys have for some time been characterised by the Death's-head moth, plainly delineated on the left arm of each guest.

American ladies, I am told, spend fabulous sums on floral decoration for dinner parties and balls. At one of the latter a floral bell measuring two feet in diameter was suspended from the ceiling, which opened during the evening and released a flock of white

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doves and a shower of bon-bons and flowers. At another two large eagles of Florida moss were hung at either end of the room, while an immense palm tree, twenty-eight feet high, rose from a miniature garden in the middle, the promenade being hedged off by a little fence of evergreens, and thus served to keep the floor clear for dancing.

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