Matters of Interest to Women

FUR TRIMMED GARMENTS for 1907

The most distinctive feature of the New Year's fashions is the use of fur as trimming for almost every kind of garments, as the two figures on the left, which show new combinations of fur with lace and ribbon. The stole and muff worn by the upper figure are of mink combined with brown Russian net, upon which a heavy design is worked in brown chinille, and the hat is of the fur with a black plume and bronze pink roses. The lower figure wears a hat, scarf and muff of chinchilla, combined with gun-metal satin ribbon.

The little girl has a coat of grey cloth, stitched and finished with pearl buttons. Her hat is of grey velvet, with bows and ties of grey satin ribbon edged with white fur and the muff is also of the fur and velvet, both are lined with rose colored satin.

The miss wears a plaid suit, trimmed with dark green velvet and sable, and the hat is of sable with a Roman ribbon and feathers.

The lady in the chair wears a jacket of seal-skin and Persian lamb, with a vest of black velvet, edged with fancy braid. The seal-skin and Persian lamb are separated by black silk braid. The hat is of ermine with gold roses and ribbon, and the muff is of the same fur with cream colored lace.

The reception gown on the model is of the newest imported design made of dull blue cloth, black velvet and brown fur, braided with soutache and has a lace and chiffon guimpe.

New Opening for Women

Within the last few years many fresh fields have been thrown open, to women, especially in philanthropic work, and now I notice there is a new profession that has opened out to women—that of the hospital almoner.

During past years the abuse of hospitals has yearly assumed greater proportions, in the fact that many people who could well afford to go to local practitioners, have availed themselves of the easy and economical means of obtaining free advice in sickness which the proximity of a big hospital affords. In order to place some check on this abuse, several hospitals have appointed lady almoners, and doubtless in the future many others will follow their example, and the lady almoner will become in time as indispensable as any other official connected with hospital management.

The term almoner in this connection is, perhaps, a little ambiguous, for the lady almoner is in no direct way connected with the giving of "alms"; rather is she there to prevent any but those who are suitable applicants for free advice from attending the hospital as out-patients. Her work is, however, varied, for she is really a go-between, whose duties lie first with the hospital and then with the patient; she is the connecting link between the hospital and then with the patient; she is the connecting link between the hospital and the outside world, and between those who prescribe and those who need advice and assistance in carrying out the prescriptions.

What, then, are the special qualifications required for a hospital almoner? What prospects does the profession offer and what exactly are its duties?

The reply to the first question is undoubtedly a love of the work, sympathy with the deserving poor, sympathy with suffering humanity, and the spirit of the true philanthropist, who desires to help others in a way that does not weaken their independence.

No one can make a good almoner who takes up her work merely as a profession, a way of earning her living, she must like it, she must understand the poor, she must be ruled not only by the heart, but by the head, since her duty lies both to the hospital and to the patient. It is essential, therefore, that she should be a well-educated woman with a fair experience of life, for she is brought face to face with many sordid realities and difficult problems.

As in all other professions, a period of training is necessary, and this involves a course of work under a charity organization local committee, as well as time spent in an almoner's office at a hospital. The work is by no means light, though intensely interesting, and it is more or less of a sedentary character, and should only be undertaken by those who enjoy good health.

The atmosphere of sickness is at all times trying, and even members of the medical profession feel the nervous and bodily exhaustion resulting from a long day's work in an out-patient's department.

With regard to the opening afforded it must be remembered that as yet hospital almoner is a new profession, still in its infancy, and the salaries paid are not uniform, but vary with the different hospitals. They are, however, sufficient to justify a well-educated woman in taking up the work though not sufficient to tempt those who think the salary given is of more importance than the work itself.

What the work is, a day spent in an almoner's office would explain far better than any written description. The actual method employed varies with different hospitals and involves a good deal of clerical labor in addition to the actual interviewing of the out-patients. The almoner works hand in hand with the staff of the hospital, and it might be said that her task begins where the doctor's ends.

The post of almoner is, perhaps, best suited to one who has already worked amongst the poor and has learned to understand their manner of life. The occupation is most interesting from what I hear, and should appeal to anyone who studies social questions.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES

Roast Turkey with Chestnut Stuffing—Dress, clean, stuff and truss a 10-pound turkey. Place on a rack on a dripping pan, rub over with salt, and spread breast, legs and wings with one-third cup of butter, worked until creamy and mixed with flour. Dredge bottom of pan with flour, place in a hot oven, and as soon as the turkey begins to brown baste with one-half bup of butter melted in one-half cup of boiling water, and continue basting every 15 minutes, using fat in pan. Bake three hours, turning frequently that the bird may brown evenly.

Chestnut Stuffing—Blanch three cups of French chestnuts and cook in boiling salted water until soft. Drain and force through a potato ricer. Add one-fourth cup of butter, one teaspoonful of salt, one-eighth teaspoonful of pepper, and one-quarter cup of cream. Melt one-fourth cup of butter, add one cup of cracker crumbs, then combine the mixture.

Vanilla Cookies—One cup sugar ¾ cup butter, 2 eggs, 2 tablespoons milk, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1½ teaspoons vanilla. Five Roses flour to make as soft as can be handled.

Prince of Wales' Cake—One cup brown sugar, ½ cup butter, 4 tablespoons molasses, ½ cup of buttermilk, 1 cup raisins, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon spices, 2 cups "Five Roses" flour. Bake in jelly tins. This cake will keep well, and is all the better for being a week old at least.

Fig-and-Date Balls—Chop together figs and dates in equal quantities; shape and press a walnut meat in the side of each.

Coffee Caramels—Boil 2 cups granulated sugar ½ cup strong coffee for five minutes. Add 1 cup cream, and continue boiling until it strings when dropped from the spoon. Pour the mixture on a buttered platter, and when cool, cut in squares.

Popcorn Balls—Put 1 pint molasses in a sauce pan, and let cook five minutes. Add 3 cups of freshly popped corn, and cook 2 minutes, stirring all the time. Pour into a greased dish, and, when cool enough, make into balls.

Women Suffrage

From the London Times.

Women, and for this they incur our severe disapprobation, are excitable. They desire to have the suffrage; to that end they storm the House of Commons and clamor for the right to assist in voting for the members of the august assembly. It was unwise on their part, a breach in good manners, an error of judgment, proof that they have not yet learnt how to deal with men. For until men have been well shaken at home, and taught that woman is a force to be reckoned with, they will not only more resolutely bar the portress they hold against female assailants, they will punish offenders sharply.

But let it be remembered, that men also are excitable. London town bore witness to the fact on a day not so very ancient, when they skirmished along the streets at night, even as an incessant procession of motorbusses, whelmed the police and indulged in every form of loutish extravagance, merely to celebrate a happy event. Now in the case of the women the intemperateness of which they were found guilty held an idea, going some way to excuse them. In the case of the men, it was sheer animal exuberance, a headlong smashing of things handy for the blow, all in jollity.

But, if we are asked which of the sexes is the more open, in those two instances to the temporary form of insanity known as hysteria, can we say it was the woman? Or can we say that women of the Christian day are given to be disorderly in a body? Rather are they in the present development given to be subservient to laws written or unwritten. Men have called them slavish.

Consider, too, that the cause for which these imprisoned women are suffering is on its way to be realized. Men have only to improve their knowledge of women and it will be granted speedily. Sentimental prattle of the mother, the wife, the sister is not needed when we see, as the choicer spirits of men do now see, that women have brains, and can be helpful to the hitherto entirely dominant muscular creature who allowed them some degree of influence in return for the servile flatteries and the graceful undulations of the snake—admired, yet dreaded. Women must have brains to have emerged from so long a bondage. Will they be nervous in excess during the period of crisis, acting as one body forming a torrent where but a flow of the stream was wanted?

Danger is there, we might say, if it were anything like a new danger. We have experienced it with voting man; history is full of examples. But by providently throwing open the avenues to occupations demanding practical mental activity, we should offer women the way to govern emotions and learn how to state a case. In the presence instance, it is the very excellence of their case that inflames them. How can they doubt it when they know they are supported in in their claim by the chief of the Conservative party, and the countenance of the chief of the Liberal party, a voice on their behalf from the secretary of state for India one who weighs what he utters, however, warm his feelings?

The mistake of the women has been to suppose that John Bull will move sensibly for a solitary attack. It makes him the more stubborn, and such a form of remonstrance with him alienates the decorous among the sisterhood, otherwise not adverse to an emancipation of their sex. It cannot be repeated, if the agitating women are to have the backing of their sober sisters. Yet it is only by repetition of this manner of enlivening him that John Bull (a still unburied old gentleman, though not much alive) can be persuaded to move at all. Therefore we see clearly that the course taken by the suffragists was wrong in tactics. It may be argued likewise that the punishment inflicted on them has magnified the incident foolishly; and the act proposed for an escape from the punishment instigated martyrdom.

THE DRY CLEANERS

Secrets are easy to solve. The article to be cleansed is immersed in gasoline, and left covered in the liquid for 24 hours. A regular wash boiler is the best vessel to use, as it can be covered, and by throwing a blanket over the tin can cover remain nearly air tight.

Gasoline does not hurt the daintiest fabrics.

After the clothes have soaked a day and a night it is time to lift them out. Do not rub them, but move round in the liquid. If they were much soiled they will not be clean even then, when it is best to cover them with fresh gasoline and leave them another day.

One little lady who washes in gasoline everything she owns that is not washable in water, says that if spots are stubborn they should be held on the palm of one hand and lathered well with the palm of the other using a plain white soap dipped in the gasoline.

Tailors clean suits without ripping them by placing them on ironing boards with the skirt thrown over the board as for ironing. A bowl of gasoline is used, and a hair brush. Brush downward, following the straight of the goods, dipping the brush often. Work quickly to dampen but not wet the material.

Heat will remove the smell of gasoline This is an extremely important part, as home cleaning often is spoiled in spite of much frantic airing, and shaking, and sunning.

Often the heat from the radiator or steam pipes is enough. If hot, cover the dress with a thin cloth and drive out the smell by ironing carefully.

Lastly, press all out on the right side over the ironing board, using a damp cloth under the hot iron, being careful to lift the wet cloth as you run the iron.

USES OF LEMONS

Gargle a bad sore throat with a strong solution of lemon juice and water.

The juice of half a lemon in a cup of black coffee, without any sugar, will cure sickheadache.

Lemon juice and salt will remove iron rust.

Wash fruit-stained hands in lemon juice to take off the stains.

A strong, unsweetened lemonade taken before breakfast will prevent and cure a bilious attack.

Lemon juice added to milk until it curds and these curds then bound upon parts swollen from rheumatism will bring relief.

Lemon juice mixed very thick with sugar will relieve that tickling cough that is so annoying.

A hot lemonade, taken before going to bed will cure a cold on the lungs.

A cloth saturated in lemon juice and bound about a cut or wound will stop its bleeding.

Lemon juice added to fruit juices that do not jell readily, such as cherry, strawberries, etc., will cause them to jell.

Lemon Extract—Let stand the rind of four grated lemons in half a pint of alcohol for about three weeks. Drain off the fluid, bottle and cork and you have finer extract than that which you buy at the stores.

Lemon Icing.—Put half a pound of sugar in a bowl and grated rind and juice of one lemon and half cup of boiling water. Whip stiff and spread between cake layers.

Marie Corelli's Attack

London Morning Leader.

To the new number of the "Rapid Review" Miss Marie Corelli contributes a vigorous and picturesque attack on the "Suffragists." Her article is entitled, "Man's War Against Woman." She begins with an indictment of man

He looks upon the apple of life as his property—and if he gives Woman a small bad quarter of it (often made bitter by a bruise or a worm) she is to think herself highly flattered and favored. Whatever she does—save and only the bearing of children—is distinctly wrong.

Whenever she elects to be something more than a gentle cow with its calves she is unsexed.

When she is not the gentle cow—when she declines to belong altogether to the bovine species—she must be a cook. Or a charwoman. Or anything in fact, that runs in the domestic line, such as a mendor of glorious Man's socks, and washer of his solled linen.

This exordium naturally cheers the heart of the "Suffragist." "Surely," she says, "Miss Corelli is one of us." But Miss Corelli turns furiously, and attacks her own sex:

May I dare to say to my distracted man-fighting sisters that I am not a "Suffragist"? I claim no more rights than are mine to the full—and as for wanting a vote, why should I? As matters stand at present, I can win for any candidate in whom I may happen to be interested at least 40 or 50 votes—perhaps more. Suppose—after many tow-rows and frantic button holing of worried members of parliament in the Lobby of the House of Commons I did secure my own one vote, should I be better off than I am now, with the certainty of 40 or 50 male voters at my beck and call, ready to do precisely as I bid them? They might turn crusty and say, "You've got your own vote now! Leave us alone!".

Miss Corelli, however, says that she has as good a right to claim a vote as anyone.

From my early years I have had to work hard and continuously for myself; and I have never been indebted to any man for the least assistance or support in the making of my career. On the contrary, many a man has been indebted to me for a helping hand out of difficulty. I earn every pound I possess; I am a householder, paying rates and taxes, and I employ men who depend upon me for their wages, these men having a right to vote while I have none.

Nevertheless, Miss Corelli does not want a vote. Why? Because if a woman has "the natural heritage of her sex, which is the mystic power to persuade, enthral, and subjugate man, she has no need to come down from her throne and mingle in any of his political frays."

Miss Corelli warns the Suffragists that "they have for the sake of a mere political chimera sacrificed their birthright—the right to claim men's devout reverence, faith and loyalty." She says that "it can but seem utter nonsense to a sane, sound strong man to talk of 'reverence, faith and loyalty' to ladies who brandish umbrellas and scream for 'woman's suffrage' so violently that they have to be taken forcibly in hand by the police. Romance flies from such a scene; poetry and idealism furl their wings like frozen butterflies and drop to the ground. It is not in male human nature to admire a nondescript creature who, while appearing to be like a man, makes this attempted semblance of man ridiculous. No man cares to be libellously caricatured and a masculine woman is nothing more than a libellous caricature of an effeminate man."

Miss Corelli does not wish to see women hustling each other at the polling booths. "If they should present the same tousled and infuriated aspect which distinguishes them on a 'remnant sale day' at a fashionable draper's the spectacle would not only be ludicrous but degrading.

But the most piquant passage in Miss Corelli's article is her onslaught upon the advertisements in ladies' journals. She protests against "the vulgar and indecent manner" in which woman is "given away as a great sham in all her own special fashion books and pictorials":

It is a man sees woman as the fool rampant.

The advertisements catering for her patronage show her at her worst. She is depicted as semi-bald, holding her wig (they call it transformer nowadays) in one hand, ready to put it on.

She is shown in a half nude state, very thin and scraggy, but again unblushingly holding the artificially moulded plump portions of her body which nature has failed to supply in readiness to fasten over the hollow places. She is exhibited plainly and pitilessly as a swindle.

Do women imagine that men never look at such papers, and never perceive the bold and prominent challenge of these degraded advertisements, which instruct them as to what a painted, powdered, padded, dyed, frizzled, shameless creature a woman may be, and often is?

The natural woman with health's own glow upon her cheeks, and heaven's own brightness in her hair, is likely to be wronged by doubts as to her genuineness, while the fashion books of today everywhere proclaim the fraud of "the female form divine," as built up, with woman's own approval by the costumer and the perruquier.

A casual study of our modern ladies' pictorials will convince the most optimistic male supporter of "women's rights" that the majority of the fair sex are not as yet in any way fitted for the franchise, and, after all, it is the majority that counts.

Miss Corelli's latest word is this: "It is better to be a Cleopatra than a 'Suffragist,' even if Antony must lose Actium."

It will be interesting to see the effect of this bombshell upon the advocates of woman's suffrage and upon the ladies' papers.

To keep lemons fresh a long time invert over them a glass dish that fits closely.

A slice of lemon added to a glass of tea makes Russian tea.

Not Economical

The planning of a pretty and an inexpensive gown is a matter of interest to most young girls and matrons.

At the very outset it is well to master the fact that inexpensive material does not always mean an inexpensive frock. Often one may spend more upon a net or gauze at 75 cents a yard than upon a satin or silk at $2 or $3 a yard; but for some inexplicable reason, that self-evident fact seems to escape many women who try conscientiously enough to be economical in dress.

For the young girl there is, of course, no evening frock so charming as one of sheer silken stuff, and the fashionable debutante is going in more strongly than ever for chiffon and mousseline and tulle, etc., but she will dance through miles of this shimmering, vaporous stuff before the season ends, and her evening frock expenses will be far in excess of those of her mother and her older sister, who go clad in clinging satins and velvets.

In the first place, it is impossible to economize in the making up of a transparent material and still obtain good results. One must have silk linings throughout, and, moreover, there must be at least one veiling of chiffon between lining and frock material and quantities of silk and chiffon frilliness around the skirt bottom.

One needs innumerable yards of sheer material for the smart frock, and sheer stuffs call for much dainty trimming. So, altogether, the sheer frock is not the economical frock, even though the bargain counters offer enticing bargains in such goods.

FOR THE TOILET TABLE

"And some good cologne," is the way many Christmas "I want" lists end.

Fine toilet soap is almost better liked by men than by women—a gift of some to either is sure to be welcome.

Newest and favorite combs for the back of the hair are those with wide, plain top band.

Five pointed combs are also much seen.

For evening the variety of fancy beglit and jeweled combs is immense.

Wearing of all sorts of dainty headdress trimmings is in decided vogue.

For milady's toilet table an ivory dressing set is appropriate.

Such a set of brush, comb, and mirror engraved with her monogram would be very effective.

RECIPROCITY AND A SENATOR.

Woman's Home Companion.

A young woman in Washington had been reading that Senator Morgan advocated the system of reciprocity.

"What is meant by reciprocity?" asked she of a young man, long known to be her admirer.

"Reciprocity," responded the guileful youth, "may be defined to mean an exchange in which neither party gains an undue advantage at the expense of the other. For instance, if you gave me a kiss, I should feel bound to give you one in return."

"I see," answered the young woman, "but I fail to understand why an old gentleman like Mr. Morgan should attach so much importance to it."