

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

CONCERNING the subject of dress reform, which is now interesting so many Victoria women, Miss Annie Jenness Miller says: "Experience would seem to prove that the advocacy of healthful and improved dress must of necessity become a vicarious atonement for the original dress reformer. Much has already been accomplished, but much more remains to be done in this single direction, or the popular mind has become so used to unrelated parts that the correct daily passes upon our public thoroughfares for the ideal in human shape, and to establish respect for harmony in physical form requires more than the logic of physiological facts. Perfect dress must recognize such permanent principles as freedom, comfort, grace, æsthetic elegance, and, above all, the general characteristics of the wearer and the occasion upon which any given dress may be worn. The aim of all my work is to urge the higher development of the body and its immediate clothing with a view to the evolution of of specialized beauty in coming generations. Dress improvement, not reform, is what is being aimed at, and this is evolutionary, not revolutionary. With the essentials secured the rest is a question of art."

CLOAKS.

The winter fashions in cloaks have brought no surprises. The novelties visible are in the trimmings and in the modes of using them. The lines of coats exhibited show an excellent variety, which speaks well for the universal popularity of these garments. Reefer jackets and military coats divide honors. Another favorite is the revised Russian coat with box pleated back. This latter coat is an excellent modification of the Russian garment, for the heavy woolen stuffs suitable for winter do not lend themselves for make up as rigid copies of the original form of this coat.

Capes from thirty-six inches to forty-two inches are still good. It is a garment which is peculiarly fit for early fall wear.

In trimmings for fall, furs, feathers and passementerie are being used in a diversity of ways.

Though there is no lack of varieties in all classes of cloak goods, still nothing distinctly novel is shown.

A WOMAN'S IDEA OF A DRUMMER.

Time was when Sam'l of Posen represented a type of the race known as the drummer, says an exchange. Of course this was to the uninitiated, the woman who was married or in any way related to the drummer himself, knew him for what he was.

Now-a-days, all her ideas have changed, and she thinks of the traveling man as an indescribably fascinating person, who goes about something like the lion of biblical story—not a roaring lion—oh, no! but a lion "seeking whom he may devour." An immaculately attired somebody with nothing to do but be agreeable. A sort of male butterfly that a woman traveling alone must beware of for fear he figuratively and literally sips all her honey.

If any man on the train looks at all

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flirtatiously inclined, a woman immediately dubs him a drummer and in a half spiteful, wholly womanly spirit, thinks to herself that he had better be thinking of his wife at home, meanwhile, no doubt, meeting his smiling glances half way.

Every uninitiated woman secretly wonders if it is true that a drummer has a sweetheart or wife in every town. Poor, maligned fellows! what does it really profit them to be strictly virtuous.

And there is another side to the picture for every woman and that is the side of the drummer's wife. She is looked upon with pity by some, envy by others and curiosity by all. The woman who dotes upon her husband and cannot allow him one evening out a week, sighs pityingly, "poor thing." The woman who wants a good time and cares not for propriety, sighs enjoyingly, "happy thing," and so it goes, whether you are a drummer or not you are sure to regret it.