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WEDDING PREPARATIONS

The first of two articles which form a complete handbook concerning the invitations, gifts, and all the incidentals of a wedding ceremony

By MRS. BURTON KINGSLAND



SO YOU ARE to be married, dear girls, and are all in a flutter of eagerness to begin preparations! You cannot begin too soon, to avoid the rush that is apt to precede the wedding day. Try to make it a time of unalloyed happiness to look back upon, instead of the memory of a weariness that took the pleasure out of everything.

I will tell you about the usual wedding preliminaries among the well-to-do, but a simple wedding is just as honorable, and often more enjoyable than an opulent one.

The trousseau claims the first attention, because of the time required for its completion.

Your previous mode of dress and its cost should be a somewhat safe guide. Girls who receive a definite yearly allowance are often given half as much again for their trousseau, though most parents prefer to say, "Get what is necessary, and pleasing, without extravagance." It is good advice. It is a mistake to buy too lavishly, for fashions change and novelties appear which it is a pleasure to buy later. Therefore, let the girl whose allowance is liberal provide her wardrobe for the coming season, and put aside the rest of the money for future service. It is wise to purchase things that will change least with fashion's whims—furs for instance.

French lingerie, made by hand, outwears anything machine-made. Get no more than a year's supply; a dozen of some articles, six of others. Linen laid away grows frail. One bride-elect laid out \$500 thus: A rough cloth jacket and skirt, light in weight and color, with silk waist, for the "going away gown." This suit proved useful, with washable shirt-waists, for walking, tennis, etc. A toque, with large rosettes and quills, accompanied it. For mornings there were six shirt-waists, three linen skirts, two dimity gowns, and one of pongee. There were also a nun's-veiling gown for teas, church, etc., two flowered organdies, and one white gown (worn over colored underslips one gown appeared like many). These with two waists each, did duty for afternoon and evening wear.

She also had an evening wrap, a light cloth driving coat, a duster, a trifling wrap for piazza wear, a pretty wrapper, a black hat with feathers, a broad, flower-wreathed one, to wear with thin gowns, two dozen pairs of gloves, shoes, and the usual toilet accessories.

With her wedding gown, with low bodice, she was prepared for formal dinners and dances.

Here is a carefully considered trousseau that was actually purchased for \$100:

A dark-blue serge skirt and jacket, for general wear and traveling, and a wash-silk shirt-waist, \$15; for visiting and dress occasions, a light gray cashmere with tiny yoke of heavy white lace, \$10; another bodice—that harmonized prettily with the visiting gown—for evening entertainments, \$5; a tan cloth jacket, useful to wear with anything, \$10; a linen skirt with lawn waist, \$5; two gingham frocks, the material for which cost 20 cents per yard, \$5; a pink dimity with ribbon belt, \$3; four cotton shirt-waists, \$2; a wrapper of pale-blue albatross, \$3;

hats, \$10; shoes and gloves, \$10; sun umbrella, \$2. This left \$20 for four sets of muslin underclothing, lisle-thread vests, four night dresses, corset, two white skirts, one of alpaca, six pair of hose, and a dozen handkerchiefs.

The bride made all the garments with the assistance of some girl friends, who volunteered to have a "sewing bee" twice a week. Tongues and fingers vied in nimbleness, and the merry gathering concluded with a pic-nic supper. Last, and most important, is the wedding gown. If cir-



cumstances do not forbid, pray have a real wedding gown—a white frock of satin, chiffon cloth, lace, lingerie muslin, or sheer organdie—and a veil. A crepe de Chine gown is an economical choice, for it may be dyed several times. Some of the loveliest wedding gowns are the simplest. India mull, or a fine organdie, trimmed with Valenciennes, makes a dainty frock that, with a tulle veil and a few flowers, in her hair and her belt, would make a girlish bride look like some sweet white flower. The skirt should have a train—long or short, and the waist is usually cut low and filled in with lace—to be removed at will when the gown may do duty for dinners and dances.

With the fashion of short sleeves long gloves are worn.

The veil should fall to the edge of the train, and is plaited on the head under a wreath or spray of blossoms.

The tulle is three or four yards wide, and costs but \$1 to \$2 per yard, while the trousseau is under way there are many things to be considered.

The first thing to be decided is whe-