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**The Ladies' Column.**

It is not often we find the coming of age of ladies solemnly celebrated, but the other day Miss Amy Whitelock's majority was made the occasion of great rejoicings upon her estate at Cogden Hall, Swaledale. This young lady occupies the envied position of heiress in her own right, and she has evidently strong views as to the duty of hospitality, for she literally entertained the whole countryside on her birthday. There was a supper for the bellringers and choir, a tea for the children, a dinner for the aged, and a ball for the light of foot. In a word, it was a red-letter day, from which the canny Dales folk will count for many a year to come.

Everything is new, and the fashion columns in the various papers are growing long and tedious, bewildering rather than useful. Following my old tack, I will not endeavour to spin out a connected yarn, but just drop in a few jottings from all sources that may be interesting to my readers.

To make the very most fashionable bonnet now displayed by the New York milliners, take a large horseshoe of gold rope with the bowed end put forward, then put a smaller horseshoe of the same two inches behind the large one. Tie the two in that position with fine cord and make a bow knot of ribbons to go behind the second horseshoe. Other similar bonnets are made with two loops of gilt chain, two bands of gilt metal, or two plated half hoops of wire. If an absent-minded lady put on one of these bonnets and then went about asking if anyone knew where her bonnet was, no one could tell her.

Long waists are now in fashion, corsets are so cut and so worn as to suppress hips, and some successful ladies in tight garments have at last achieved the outside appearance of animated champagne bottles. Like the bottle in question, it is a wonder they do not go off suddenly; perhaps they uncork, or rather unlace, as soon as they get to the friendly shelter of their own rooms. For lovely women cannot sit down comfortably in these long stays—not without nearly cutting her legs off, and legs are generally considered to be good standing orders in properly constructed women.

Drapery for mantelshelves has gone out of fashion, and a handsome length of brocade, edged with ball fringe laid on the slab, is substituted. Where there are handsome oak or marble mantelpieces this is an improvement. Large cushions still retain their popularity, and frequently an unused bed-pillow is covered and converted into a handsome sofa cushion. A favourite fashion is throwing a length of any brocade or embroidered material over couches and chairs, and plain cushions.

A very pretty and novel way of making a handkerchief sachet was shown me the other day. Its design is highly original, being made of a piece of coloured or white ribbon rather less than three inches broad and a yard and three-quarters long. The middle portion is doubled by being lined with a piece of the same ribbon thirteen inches long, and perfumed wadding laid between the two thickness. The ribbon is simply wrapped round the handkerchiefs and tied in a graceful bow at the top. The ribbon may be ornamented with flowers either painted or worked in silk according to taste.

Scarcely any millinery to be seen is suitable for the elderly lady who prefers dressing according to her years instead of fixing up young; and one remarked to me the other day that out of a dozen

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bonnets she had been turning over, not any would set comfortably on her head unless she previously piled on several guineas' worth of false hair; and that she did not mean to do. The middle aged *chapeau* is made to order, usually by a milliner who has decked the same head for years, and knows its weak points; but this work of art is never put in the window. Fashion declines to recognize any thing fabricated for anybody who owns to more than thirty-five summers. The only mother's bonnet she ever condescends to show to customers is meant for the type of woman who trims up as young as her own daughters.

"There is a new *coiffure*, as pretty as most, which has lately come out under a fine-sounding name; but it is really shaped like a whelk, one of those interesting shells which finish off with a twirl. The hair seems to be dressed every way at present, and there is plenty of choice. With the front in a frizzly curl, the sides waved, and the back and top done up in loops, plenty of time and attention must be required to fix all properly and see that none is likely to drop off. It is so necessary to have a sure and certain foundation when spring winds blow, and bonnets are skewered on purchased plaits, instead of being tied under the chin with strings which would keep the whole superstructure from taking wing.

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