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### The Ladies' Column.

Some one wrote lately on the dress of literary women in London, describing it as being generally in bad taste. This is about right, and the reason is not far to seek. First and foremost, to dress at all well requires time and thought, neither of which is at the beck and call of the women who write for bread. Secondly, she has very little money to spare to keep herself practically posted up to date in raiment. And when all is said that can be said, to be at all well dressed requires a good deal more than the working woman of any cult can afford. In New York, women of letters are also bad dressers. The limp æsthetic clinging style is greatly affected by literary women. Others rely upon yards of trimming and a blaze of gems. One well-known writer, says the *New York World*, never appears without a hat, even when she is *decollete*. But, says the same authority, the same fashion writers, with a few exceptions, are the most dowdily and unbecomingly dressed of all. But the raucous correspondent of that capital paper deserves to tell his own story, unaltered, so here is what he, or she, says: "There are a few well-known literary women who, with their bleached hair, big diamonds, and taste for colours can be heard on the next block, and often mistaken for Broadway soubrettes. The writers are not above the arts of the toilet either, and rouge, powder, and other details are used by many of the azure-bosomed tribe as well by the butterflies of Society. Nor is *decollete* dressing frowned upon by the ladies who write for a living. One may see at functions frequented by writers quite as liberal a display of charms as in the boxes at the Metropolitan." A little further on we read that a writer of note received her visitors in bare feet, which, being pretty, the male portion forgave her. Quite half a column of paper is devoted to descriptions of the chief literary women's dress, but as their names, with few exceptions, are a blank quantity to us, I will not inflict their clothes on my readers.

It is curious, it repulsive, to read how surgery enters into the beautifying of woman, or rather the remedying of her defects of feature. If a nose is too celestial in its aspirations, the bridge is operated on, and the *retrograde* disappears. I have read the process—it made me ill. I will not pass it on. Massage will remove wrinkles, and impurities caused by a sluggish circulation. A facial massager is scientifically trained, and knows the exact direction her operations on the nose must take. By this process the muscles are stimulated into greater plumpness, and the cartilage and muscles of the nose are made soft and yielding. The worst feature is the mouth, and it is almost impossible to make a large one small. A remedy for thick lips is said to be a solution of tannin, which serves

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the purpose of contracting the labial development. But "there is hardly any surgical operation which will reduce the size with any certainty except shortening the muscles at the corners with the knife and sewing the edges together. This operation is difficult because of the necessity of taking food, and some would say of talking. Large ears may be remedied by the knife with ease, as the cartilage of which they are mainly composed is easily cut and heals rapidly. Therefore it would seem unnecessary that any woman should have irregular or homely features if she can only afford the price of such operations, from five-and-twenty dollars to almost as many hundreds, according to her status and the physician's name."

Now that there are a few vegetables to be seen in the market, the following may be useful to some of our readers:—

**CUCUMBERS A L'ESPAGNOLE.**—Choose two or three fresh young cucumbers, peel them, and cut each one in halves lengthwise; next cut each half through the middle, thus forming four neat-shaped, equal-sized pieces out of each cucumber. Take out the seeds and dip the pieces in flour which has been highly seasoned with salt, pepper and a pinch cayenne, then fry in hot butter, or good beef dripping, until richly browned. Drain the cucumbers carefully from the fat and lay them in a saucepan: cover with good brown stock and simmer gently until quite tender, but not at all broken; then take up the vegetable, place each piece on a slice of hot buttered toast of corresponding size and shape, and arrange neatly on a hot dish. Stir into the stock sufficient brown *roux* to thicken it to taste, boil up, skim if necessary, pour over the cucumbers and serve at once.

**SOME INTERESTING ADVERTISEMENTS.**—For sale—A damaged Lady's Gold Watch, a mahogany Butler's Tray, a sky-blue Gentleman's Dressing Jacket, a leather-covered Travelling Girl's Dress Basket, a Brass-faced Grandfather's Clock, a second-hand Officer's Regulation Trunk, a half crown, all silver, will be given in exchange for two-and-sixpence, first offer has it.

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