THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Are We Going Back to the Fashions of Eighty Years Ago?

MADE HEALTHY BY A NEEDLE.

Frolics in Fashions, Seasonable Recipes, and Feminine Personals.

(Cousin Kate's Weekly Budget.)

New, Yet Old.

How changeful is fashion! How capricious and exacting! When we think it taken up with such or such a shape and color it is already weary of it, and disdains it for some fresh favorite. A year ago we peaked our bodices, making them as tight and long-waisted as possible; this year all this is completely modified, the queens of fashion—those who take the lead in matters of taste—have discarded pointed bodices and wear plain, straight skirts. This tendency toward a return to the fashions of the First Empire is becoming more and more marked, and will soon be accepted by many. Shall we arrive at the end of the century dressed like our great-grandmothers?

Nor are these century-old fashions devoid of charm. Though we do not approve of them entirely in all their details, on the whole we like them well enough. For one thing, they are certainly more economical than the double or treble draped skirts, for which such yards and yards of material were required. What more simple or convenient to wear than the plain skirt slightly puffed up at the back, and the dainty Reçamier bodice, draped in the shape of a fichu, and fitted round the waist with a wide scarf tied on the left side or fastened at the back into a baby-bow?

Such dresses are not, as yet, very generally worn, but we proclaim them as the coming novelty of the season for young ladies. As a transition between the peaked and the short-waisted bodice, many dresses are being made just now with the fronts plaited slantways, and crossed at the waist under a deep belt, the plain space in the middle being filled up with a plastron of faille or surah.

A pretty model of this style is of absinthe-green cashmere; the fronts are plaited and crossed at the waist, showing a plastron of dark green velvet, finished by a turned-up collar, trimmed with a beaded galloon. The deep belt is trimmed with the same as well as the bands, on to which are gathered the full cashmere sleeves, which do not come down below the elbow. Plain cashmere skirt falling over a silk underskirt of the same color, with small pink-out ruche showing just beyond the edge.

Absinthe-green, the favorite color this spring, is a very soft, grayish shade of green, exceedingly becoming to blondes. Serpent-green madeira and oak-brown are also fashionable colors, and appear in the light, soft woolen materials of the season. Glace surah shot of two colors is combined with these woolen tissues in spring costumes. When tastefully selected such combinations are extremely elegant.

Shot silks are very much in vogue; taffetas, faille and surah are all in the glace style, soft, dullish shades being preferred. Narrow stripes in the pompadour style, pekin, fancy velvet and French faille are also among the silk tissues most in favor.

Morning dresses are made with a plaited blouse bodice confined round the waist by a wide sash tied in front or at the side. The skirt is simply plaited all round, and just puffed up a little at the back. The material is cashmere or veiling. The bodice is often plaited on to a small shoulder-piece of silk or velvet. The sleeves are full, and gathered on to a band to match the shoulder-piece.

Empire Coats.

Now that the hideous coach coat, otherwise known as the Shaker or Dutch robe, has run its length, fashion is ready to examine the directoire or dinner coat, which is all the style in London and Rome. The cut is very similar to the gentleman's evening coat, and is to be seen in a modified style on the stage. Double-breasted, with a deep rolling collar, the waist in front is cut off at the belt while the back gores or tails fall almost to the floor. For morning wear, made in black or dark colors, the garment is double-breasted and secured with a few very beautiful buttons, but the coat designed for the drawing-room opens on a lace vest and frills finish the collar and sleeves. The garment is intended for the few figures that are best relieved by straight lines, and for this class only the richest material is used. The skirts that go with these handsome coats are made of bengaline or India silk, tissues shot with embroidery designs, lace crepe or ribbon effects. An ideal dinner dress is described as being made of Boulanger red skirts, over which was a directoire coat of black moire with long frills of lace at the wrists and a jabot of point lace falling from the throat. With the fancy a large hat is prescribed, trimmed with long plumes. Another swell coat is the pompadour brought out by an English firm and designed exclusively as a dinner novelty for a fine figure. Pompadour brocade makes the coat, which is cut very like a man's coat, the front having revers that roll back to show a sort of waistcoat of velvet overlaid or draped with a jabot of white lace. A couple of buttons mark the waist line in the back, and cuffs of velvet and ruffles of lace finish the sleeve. The pompadour tea-jacket, which is also English, is an immense success. It is composed of the new texture called satin plush in an ecru shade of yellow and fits loosely in front but very tight in the back, closing invisibly. A guard's collar and flat-band wristlets complete the bodice, which in plain colors is elaborately embroidered in gold or silver. One thing is certain, if the dress reformers make any headway these coats will hardly be tolerated, since the corsets are doomed, without which a fit is impossible.

A Great Needle Story.

"Talk about your needle stories," said a man on the streets yesterday, "but I can tell you one that discounts them all, and I don't have to go far from home for the facts, either. My wife's sister, a young lady about 19, has a pet needle. She wouldn't do without it for the world. About three years ago the needle made its first appearance by sticking its point out of her shoulder. How it ever got into her body, or how long it had been there, she says she doesn't know. It didn't come out far enough for any one to get hold of, but went back in, and in about a month it stuck its nose out away down on her right ankle. Then it disappeared again, and it has been scooting around inside of her system ever since, poking its point out about every month somewhere or other. She had it pulled out once with a pair of nippers, and you may not believe it, but it is a fact, she became almost alarmingly ill with a sort of nervous prostration that the doctors couldn't make anything of. "One day an irresistible impulse seized her, as she says, to get that needle and jab it into herself. She did so, and felt much better instantly. The needle has been on his travels without interruption ever since, and she has had perfect health. She couldn't be pursuaded now to have it taken out. About a year ago the needle made its appearance at her left wrist, and the location of both ends of it was clearly discernible. By way of amusement, I suppose, she managed to get at the head of her pet and slipped a little piece of fine, bright red silk through the eye, and now the needle is carrying that all over her system, and once in a while it is discernible beneath the skin. When the needle was out it was very strongly magnetized. Yes, it's a very queer case, and I don't pretend to explain it, but I know the story is true."

Seasonable Recipes.

Rhubarb Jam.—To every one pound of rhubarb allow one pound of loaf sugar and the rind of half a lemon. Wipe the rhubarb perfectly dry, string it and weigh it; put it into a preserving pan, with sugar in the above proportion. Mince the lemon rind very finely, add it to the other ingredients, and place the preserving pan by the side of the fire; keep stirring to prevent the rhubarb from burning, and when the sugar is well dissolved put the pan more over the fire, and let the jam boil for three-quarters of an hour, taking care to keep it well skimmed and stirred with a wooden spoon. Pour into pots, and cover in the usual way.

Rhubarb Wine.—To every pound of green rhubarb stocks, when bruised, put a quart of cold spring water; let it stand three days, stirring it twice in a day; then press and strain it through a sieve, and to every gallon add four pounds of loaf sugar, the juice and half the rind of a lemon; put it into a cask with half an ounce of isinglass dissolved in a little of the liquor, and add a gill of brandy. Do not bung the cask closely for a month, and bottle in ten or twelve months more.

Fruit.—With the approach of the warmer weather the prudent housewife will pay more attention to this part of her *menu*. Make the dish of cooling, anti-bilious fruits attractive by selection and arrangement. Nuts belong to winter time, when fats are needed to produce carbon. Raisins, always unwholesome, clog digestion weakened by "spring fever" and irritated morbid livers. Apples are out of season, but oranges and bananas valiantly relieve guard between them, the grapes and late pears that lasted after the holidays and the coming berries. The juice of a lemon, mixed with four times as much water, unsugared, and drunk just before bedtime, will do more to counteract malarial influences and correct a surplusage of bile than a dozen blue pills.

How to Boil Asparagus.—Asparagus of the stouter sort, always when of the "giant" variety, should be cut of exactly equal lengths, and boiled, standing ends upward, in a deep saucepan. Nearly two inches of the heads should be out of the water—the steam sufficing to cook them, as they form the tenderest part of the plant; while the hard stalky part is rendered soft and succulent by the longer boiling which this plan permits. Instead of the orthodox twenty minutes allotted to asparagus, lying horizontally, which half cooks the stalk and overcooks the head, diminishing its flavor and consistence, a period of thirty or forty minutes, on the plan recommended, will render fully a third more of the stock delicious, while the head will be properly cooked by the steam alone.

A Lesson of Life.

What a lesson to the young men of the country is taught in the brief career and sad fate of young Charles Gehring, who took his life yesterday in a room at a Park Row hotel. The deceased was a favorite son of a wealthy brewer at Cleveland, O. He was only a little over 30 years of age. His opportunities would have enabled him to lead a useful and a happy life, for he had command of all the money he needed and his natural advantages were such as would have made him a favorite among his associates. He chose a course of riotous living and dissipation, and the suicide's death at the very threshold of life is the end!

What were his last words, dying, away from home and friends, with none but strangers around him? "I—am—tired; I—want—rest!" he faintly murmured, and then death closed his lips forever. But what a world of meaning, what a history of vain pleasures and bitter disappointment was conveyed in those few broken words.—*New York World of Wednesday.*

Six Children at a Birth.

The wife of the syndic mayor, Castagnola Ticino, has given birth to six children. This fact is testified to as absolutely correct by an authoritative Berne correspondent. The woman, whose name is Rezzonico, is 38 years of age, and has already had three and four children at a birth. Her husband is married for the second time, and has seven children by his first wife.

The six children, four boys and two girls, were born living but died soon afterward. The news of the extraordinary event, perhaps hitherto unheard of in the annals of anthropology, has created a great sensation, especially in Italy, and doctors are hastening to the scene from Milan, Como, and other towns to satisfy themselves of its truth.—*New York Sun.*

Little, "But Enough,"

As Mercutio said of his wound. We refer to Dr. Pierce's little Pellets, which are small, swift and sure, in case of sick headache, biliousness, constipation and indigestion.

Spiders rarely cause any trouble with bees. Streng colonies are fully able to repel them should they enter the hive. All webs about the entrance should be brushed away, or bees will be caught and devoured

$500 WILL PAY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS

THE PROPRIETORS OF Dr. SAGE'S CATARRH REMEDY

For a case of Catarrh in the Head which they cannot cure.

SOLD BY DRUGGISTS 50 CENTS. The Only Guaranteed Cure

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CATARRH IN THE HEAD.

SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE.—Dull, heavy headache, obstruction of the nasal passages, discharges falling from the head into the throat, sometimes profuse, watery, and acrid, at others, thick, tenacious, mucous, purulent, bloody and putrid; the eyes are weak; there is ringing in the ears, deafness, hacking or coughing to clear the throat, expectoration of offensive matter, together with scabs from ulcers; the voice is changed and has a "nasal twang"; the breath is offensive; smell and taste impaired; there is a sensation of dizziness, with mental depression, a hacking cough and general debility. Only a few of the above-named symptoms are likely to be present in any one case. Thousands of cases annually, without manifesting half of the above symptoms, result in consumption, and end in the grave. No disease is so common, more deceptive and dangerous, less understood, or more unsuccessfully treated by physicians.

COMMON SENSE TREATMENT.

If you would remove an evil, *strike at its root*. As the predisposing or real cause of catarrh is, in the majority of cases, some weakness, impurity, or otherwise faulty condition of the system, in attempting to cure the disease our *chief* aim must be directed to *the removal of that cause*. The more we see of this odious disease, and we treat successfully thousands of cases annually at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, the more do we realize the importance of combining with the use of a local, soothing and healing application, a *thorough and persistent* internal use of blood-cleansing and tonic medicines.

CHIEF RELIANCE.

In curing catarrh and all the various diseases with which it is so frequently complicated, as throat, bronchial, and lung diseases, weak stomach, catarrhal deafness, weak or inflamed eyes, impure blood, scrofulous and other taints, the wonderful powers and virtues of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cannot be too strongly extolled. It has a specific effect upon the lining mucous membranes of the nasal and other air-passages, promoting the natural secretion of their follicles and glands, thereby softening the diseased and thickened membrane, and restoring it to its natural, thin, delicate, moist, healthy condition. As a blood-purifier, it is unsurpassed. As those diseases which complicate catarrh are diseases of the lining mucous membranes, or of the blood, it will readily be seen why this medicine is so well calculated to cure them.

LOCAL AGENT.

As a local application for healing the diseased condition in the head, Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy is beyond all comparison the best preparation ever invented. It is mild and pleasant to use, producing no smarting or pain, and containing no strong, irritating, or caustic drug, or other poison. This Remedy is a powerful antiseptic, and speedily destroys all bad smell which accompanies so many cases of catarrh, thus affording great comfort to those who suffer from this disease.

PERMANENT CURES.

The Golden Medical Discovery is the natural "helpmate" of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. It not only cleanses, purifies, regulates, and builds up the system to a healthy standard, and conquers throat, bronchial, and lung complications, when any such exist, but, from its specific effects upon the lining membrane of the nasal passages, it aids materially in restoring the diseased, thickened, or ulcerated membrane to a healthy condition, and thus eradicates the disease. When a cure is effected in this manner *it is permanent.*

Both Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy are sold by druggists the world over. Discovery $1.00, six bottles for $5.00. Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy 50 cents; half-dozen bottles $2.50.

A complete Treatise on Catarrh, giving valuable hints as to clothing, diet, and other matters of importance, will be mailed, post-paid to any address, on receipt of a 2-cent postage stamp.

Address, **World's Dispensary Medical Association,** No. 663 Main Street, BUFFALO, N. Y.

Dr. PIERCE'S PLEASANT PURGATIVE PELLETS

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THE ORIGINAL LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

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PURELY VEGETABLE! PERFECTLY HARMLESS!

As a LIVER PILL, they are Unequaled!

SMALLEST, CHEAPEST, EASIEST TO TAKE.

Beware of Imitations, which contain Poisonous Minerals. Always ask for Dr. Pierce's Pellets, which are little Sugar-coated Pills, or Anti-bilious Granules. ONE PELLET A DOSE.

SICK HEADACHE,

Bilious Headache, Dizziness, Constipation, Indigestion, Bilious Attacks, and all derangements of the stomach and bowels, are promptly relieved and permanently cured by the use of **Dr. Pierce's Pellets.** In explanation of their remedial power over so great a variety of diseases, it may truthfully be said that their action upon the system is universal, not a gland or tissue escaping their sanative influence.

BEING PURELY VEGETABLE,

Dr. Pierce's Pellets operate without disturbance to the system, diet, or occupation. Put up in glass vials, hermetically sealed. Always fresh and reliable. As a gentle **laxative, alterative,** or active **purgative,** they give the most perfect satisfaction.

Manufactured by WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, BUFFALO, N. Y.

THE LARGEST ORCHESTRA.

Three Hundred Players, Not One of Whom Sees the Rest.

At the Western penitentiary in Pennsylvania there is a nightly concert given by what is probably the largest orchestra in the world. It is composed of at least 300 players, who never see one another. The music begins at precisely 6 o'clock every evening, and ends at the stroke of 7. Within that hour the convicts are permitted to make, each independently, as much music or discord as he pleases. This prison is, perhaps, the only one in the United States where the inmates are allowed to cultivate the art of music, and the privilege is deeply appreciated by them. Just before 6 o'clock they may be seen by the officials, sitting with their instruments in readiness. As the hour strikes, they begin to play and rattle off tune after tune during the appointed time.

As may be imagined, with several hundred instruments playing at once, it is impossible to distinguish any one of them from the rest, or to tell one tune from another. As the waves of sound rise and mingle, the listener can only be reminded of a wind howling in the distance.

"They look forward to this hour with great pleasure," said one of the keepers to a reporter. "Music is the only thing that varies the monotony of their lives, and taking an instrument away from a prisoner is about the severest punishment we can inflict."

As they were talking there was a moment's silence. It was a few minutes before 7, and a man began playing "Home, Sweet Home" on a violin.

His neighbor accompanied him on a guitar, and in a short time they were joined by a flute, cornet and mandolin. The prisoners in the upper tiers of cells seemed to be waiting for the beginning of the favorite melody, and one by one caught it up, until all were playing the tune. The sounds ceased at the stroke of 7, and quiet reigned supreme.—*Youth's Companion.*

A Husband's Solicitude.

Robinson—So you are going to Europe, Brown? Brown—Yes, for a couple of months. I haven't been very strong lately, and I think the trip will do one good." Robinson—I hope so. Mrs. Brown will accompany you, of course? Brown—N—no; my wife has complained of not feeling very strong recently, and I'm afraid to have her undertake the trip.

The Other Kind.

She—Sorry to miss you the other night when you called, but I was at a progressive euchre party and won a prize. He (with much meaning)—Ah, but you might have done the same at home! She—True; but I never play for the booby.

Into Print at Last.

Wife (looking over a newspaper)—Dear me, there is a big dry goods firm in this city named Catchem & Cheatem, and they have a stock worth half a million dollars; the store has been open a year, it appears.

Husband—You don't say so? I never noticed their advertisement. What part of the paper is it in?

Wife—I have not noticed their advertisment either. I find the name among the list of business failures.

Her Fault.

If she is made miserable by day and sleepless at night, by nervous headache, pains in the back, easily grieved, vexed or made tired, or is suffering from any of those wasting functional disorders peculiar to women, such as prolapsus, ulceration, leucorrhea, morning sickness, or weakness of the stomach, ect., a brief self-treatment with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will convince her of the folly of enduring misery that can be so easily, pleasantly and radically cured. Druggists.

Value of Young Men.

A young lady in Atlanta stepped to a window to look at a young man passing by, and just then a large piece of plastering fell down on the chair she had vacated. Had she kept her seat she would have been killed.

Consumption Curable.

Since the fact that consumption is both preventable, and in its earliest stage curable, it has lost much of its terror. If the first symptoms are at once recognized, and the proper remedy applied, very few, if any one, need die with consumption, which is really lung-scrofula. Like many other diseases this formidable one grows out of impure blood, and this, in turn, from a diseased liver. Hence, we have the hacking cough, the pains in chest, the inflamed lungs, and all the symptoms of hastening consumption, all the result of depraved blood and diseased liver. The use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery will arrest all such symptoms, restore the liver to healthy action, and send streams of pure blood into every organ. Of druggists.

Silly mothers in the fashionable circles of Paris have aroused the indignation of the medical profession by applying the horrors of face painting to little children. In the public gardens babies of 3 years old may be seen whose eyebrows have been blacked or dyed. Other anxious parents, distressed at the vulgarly ruddy and rustic hue of their children's cheeks, carefully powder them before sending them out. Little coquettes of 10 years are not permitted to go abroad until the regulation black stroke has been painted beneath their eyes.

ITCHING PILES.

SYMPTOMS—Moisture; intense itching and stinging; most at night; worse by scratching. If allowed to continue tumors form, which often bleed and ulcerate, becoming very sore. SWAYNE'S OINTMENT stops the itching and bleeding, heals ulceration, and in many cases removes the tumors. It is equally efficacious in curing all Skin Diseases. DR. SWAYNE & SON, Proprietors, Philadelphia. SWAYNE'S OINTMENT can be obtained of druggists. Sent by mail for 50 cents.

Ever Ready.

Locomotive Builder (on a railroad train)—The reason we are kept waiting here is because the engine has broken down. I have examined it, and if I only had the proper tools I could fix it in half an hour." Helpful Wife—Here's a hairpin, dear.

Tender Corns.

Soft corns, corns of all kinds removed without pain or sore spots by Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Thousands testify that it is certain, painless and prompt. Do not be imposed upon by substitutes offered for the genuine "Putnam's" Extractor. Sure, safe, harmless.

Wm. Gerlich, aged 10, drowned himself at Flushing L. I., yesterday, because his mother had whipped him.

George Muller, celebrated throughout the world as a worker for the good of his fellow-men, is now 82 years old, and as full of zeal and activity as ever. He has just returned to England, after a preaching tour of 37,000 miles through Australia, China, Japan and other countries. Two thousand children greeted him at Bristol upon his return, the little ones being inmates of his orphanage in that city.

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THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND