THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Feminine Fashions and Fancies Abloom in the Spring.

A GIRL'S ELECTRICITY.

Hints on Using Brooms Prettily, Daintily and Irresistibly.

(Cousin Kate's Weekly Budget.)

Finishing Touches.

Knife plaited silk muslin in white, cream and the dark colors, old blue, rosewood or bright scarlet, is sold by the yard to add as a turned over frill to the neck and sleeves of dress waists, also to form the large jabot or cravat now in vogue down the upper part of the front of the dress.

Crimping instead of plating, is used by French modistes for the frills on dresses that have accordion plaited skirts.

Shirred ribbon passed around the neck outside the collar of the dress gives a pretty finish to a plain gown, and is a good plan for renewing or concealing a partly worn collar. For this purpose take gros grain ribbon two and a half inches wide, the color of the dress or of its trimming; then put seven rows of gathers very near together along the middle, leaving a little ruffle at top and bottom. Have this collar lapped to the left side and fastened with a small bow. Ribbon with a satin edge or corded edge is most used. Waistbands can be made the same way.

An economical and dressy way of using ribbons inside the neck of the dress is to get gros grain ribbon that is only half an inch wide, and gathering its lowest edge, sew it just inside the dress collar, leaving scarcely more than a fourth of an inch showing above the edge; this should be very full to look well, and at each end is left a piece of the ribbon, four or five inches long, to be tied in a small bow just in front.

A Girl's Sad Experience with Electricity.

The *Hairdresser* prints the following: "I read," said a bright young married woman, "that there is now a way of removing hair from a woman's lip by the use of electricity. That is not new, and I want to sound a note of warning to any woman who may be tempted to use it. I have a very dear friend who was a classmate of mine in college. She was a real pretty girl, but she was greatly annoyed at the fact that a few hairs were growing on her chin and upper lip. They really did not look bad, more like the down of a beautiful peach than anything else, but they were eyesores to her. She tried everything to get rid of them, and finally was persuaded to try electricity. An experienced physican performed the operation, and left her face as smooth as a billiard ball. Six weeks later the hairs returned, greatly increased in size and several shades darker. This time they really did look bad, and the poor girl was almost wild. She has never been able to do anything with them since, and unless she clips them every day—a very tiresome operation—her face looks as though she were really growing a beard. The best way for a woman is to leave her face alone. She only spoils it by tampering."

In Myrtle-Green Velvet

At a London wedding a few days ago the Princess of Wales wore a costume of dark myrtle-green velvet, almost black, with a silk bonnet of the same hue relieved with a little white. The three young Princesses were attired in gowns of dull pink silk, with hats en suite, and short jackets of drab homespun cloth.

Checking Babies at Balls

is the latest wrinkle, says the Buffalo (N. Y.) *Commercial*. At a ball given in that city recently a woman became tired of carrying her little one about in her arms. She took the child to the hat-room and put it in a box. The little sleeper was then duly checked, the mother paying 10 cents for the privilege. "I'll keep the baby here till it wakes up, but you must come and get it when it begins to cry," said the man in charge of the hat-room. "All right," replied the mother, and away she went to the ball room, where she enjoyed two hours' recreation. At the end of that time the mother was called out of a set to take care of the baby.

Hardly the Correct Thing.

The list of words, phrases and expressions to be avoided by young ladies of good breeding includes the following:

"I guess so," for I suppose so, or I think so.

"Fix things," for arrange things, or prepare things.

The use of "ride" and "drive" interchangeably.

"Real good" or "real nice" for very good or really nice.

"I have studied some," for studied somewhat, or "I have not studied any" for not studied at all.

"Not as I know," for not that I know.

"Try and experiment," for make an experiment.

"Had rather" for would rather, and "had better," for would better.

"Right away" for immediately or now.

"Well posted," for well informed.

"Try and do," for try to do, or "try and go," for try to go.

"It looks good enough" for it looks well enough, or "does it look good enough," for does it look well enough.

"Somebody else's," for somebody's else.

Refurnishing a Parlor.

Stain your floor a dark walnut (counsels the "Art Amateur") and get a rug of mixed colors of whatever material you can afford. Those of American make imitating Persian rugs are good and will not cost more than, if as much as, a Brussels carpet. Paper the walls with a medium shade of olive green, with small pattern of a darker shade of the same color. This will harmonize with the woodwork. Your walls are too low for a frieze, but you might have a simple border of a lighter color than the field. In your windows have sash curtains of India or Persian silk of a soft shade of yellow and long curtains of Madras muslin with a very light olive-greenish tone.

Your corner shelf may be ebonized as you suggest, with the addition of a curtain of Persian silk running on a narrow brass rod, matching the sash curtains. A Turcoman striped portiere would do very well if judiciously selected. Try and get one with olive ground and stripes of deep blue, red, old gold and white, with perhaps a thread of gold running through. Throw an afghan of harmonizing colors over your unsightly sofa, if you cannot make up your mind to remove it from the room. Cover the rush bottomed arm-chair with the rich dark stuff resembling old tapestry, which comes in quaint designs; this is better than the spun silk you suggested. Cover the small chair with "old gold" plush and ebonize the frame. Do not think of such a thing as painting your "ginger jar." Leave it as it is. Put a few peacock feathers in it and stand it on your corner shelf.

A Climax at a Wedding.

The climax of a Hebrew wedding is the breaking of a wineglass, which the bridegroom crushes under his feet.

Mme. Bonanza's $30,000 Gown.

The monde which last year swore that Mrs. Mackay was papering the smoking room of her "hotel" with bank notes will no doubt find the bit of gossip very probable that she is awaiting the arrival from Paris of a gown which is embroidered all over with real pearls, and for which she has agreed to pay $10,000.

A Hint for Earnest Women.

Women who want to do real, earnest work in the world should regard a pleasant exterior as part of their equipment. They should put themselves in the hands of a clever milliner, who will dress them well without their having to devote either time or attention to a subject so frivolous in itself, but so important in its results. M. Renan says, in his "Souvenirs de Jeunesse," as I see quoted in my *Budget*, that "talent, genius and virtue are nothing compared with beauty." The French idea again, you see, and by no means an exalted one, but it has its grain of truth.

Lessons of Experience.

Canadian Girl (abroad)—Father, I have a chance to marry a title.

Wise Father—Humph! I think, my dear, it will be cheaper to buy one.

The Latest Table Decoration.

Charlie has just been telling us about a new and very pretty table decoration that he saw at a dinner at the Hotel Victoria, in Northumberland avenue, New York, last Thursday. It was a long oval table, with a large tank sunk in the centre, nearly filled with water, in which goldfish swam and lilies floated. In this miniature lake were three tiny islands of flowers, from each of which rose a fountain, the whole illuminated by electric light. All round the edge was a border of moss and flowers, the blossoms being chiefly white. A similar, but smaller, lake was arranged at either end of the table, but in these there were no fish, only arum lilies and bulrushes springing from the water. It must have been pretty, I think.

Feminine Odds and Ends.

A kissing school is the very latest Parisian development.

Mrs. Cleveland's pictures still outsell Mrs. Harrison's.

Screens are now made with pockets on the panels for holding fans or photographs.

Statistics show that in New England seven out of ten widows under 45 marry within two years.

The list of viands one may eat from the fingers without committing a breach of etiquette is increasing.

Miss Redmond, the sculptress, who has just been commissioned to make a bust of Mr. Gladstone, is an Irish girl.

Embroidery silk colors are fashionable again for table-linen, and thus the dull writers for amateur decorators.

Mrs. Cashel Hoey, the authoress, is an Irish lady between 60 and 70. She makes upon an average $2,500 a year by her pen.

Jenny Lind found a tramp under her bed on Friday night. But it was Mrs. Lind, of New York. The real Jenny is dead.

The finest single sapphire in this country is owned by Mrs. William Astor, and her necklace of emeralds and diamonds is among the costliest jewels in America.

At the birthday reception in Schloss at Berlin last week the Empress wore a dress of lilac satin embroidered with silver, with a superb train of velvet trimmed with ermine.

Brooklyn temperance women support a coffee booth which stands in front of the open plaza before the City Hall, where for 5 cents a hungry person can get hot coffee and a slice of bread.

Hats for ladies are broader-brimmed than ever, with the very low crown wreathed round with feathers. The latest model is the Romeo, slightly raised at the side with a bow of velvet ribbon.

The fashionable "accordion" dress may well be called a new wrinkle. It is all wrinkled from waist to hem, like the folds of an accordion. The effect is odd and rather pretty, but its cheapness may antagonize its popularity.

At a Kansas wedding the other day the bride's father gave the happy couple a cheque for $150. The urbane bridegroom raised the cheque to $1,500 and started off on a solitary wedding tour. Another case of "Where is My Wandering Boy Tonight?"

Ladies, it would seem, no longer dye their hair. O, dear no! They never think of doing anything so crude as that. What they do now, if you please, when they wish to give to their locks that bright golden or brouzy tint which is so fashionable, is to "oxidize it."

Mrs. Munemitsu Mutsu, the wife of the Japanese Minister to Washington, is one of the most richly and expensively dressed ladies in Washington. Many of her dresses are made by Worth, but she is so diminutive that it is jokingly said that she pays only half price for her gowns.

Lady Harberton, the English champion of the "divided skirt," is described as plain, almost masculine in form and feature, while her simple and natural dignity of manner bespeaks the lady genuine and refined throughout. A draped overskirt falling to the knees conceals from the casual observer the peculiar feature of her dress.

For a second marriage 'tis no longer regarded as a crime or heresy to don snow-white bridal garments, says a fashion writer in the New York *World*. Velvet was the widow's first move; that has slowly become white silk. Orange blossoms are attempted by only the audacious, while the veil is an unsettled problem. Although the process may be slow it is quite sure, and in the course of time one may celebrate a second ceremony with as much pomp and circumstance as the first.

FULLY—ANSWERED.

"Subscriber's" Query Causes Comment.

As our readers will remember, a letter was published in a our columns a few days ago, signed "Subscriber" which dwelt at some length upon a subject of general interest, and which contained several inquiries which will be found answered in the following:

To the Editor.—Several days ago I noticed a communication in your paper from "Subscriber," in which considerable comment was indulged in concerning the pamphlets which are widely distributed by Messrs. H. H. Warner & Co., of Rochester, N. Y. These pamphlets are published in order that the public may become conversant with the symptoms and growth of disease peculiar to the kidneys, and which is, it must be admitted, the productive cause in a majority of instances, of other organic disorders. The publishers of these pamphlets are also the discoverers and manufacturers of the noted Warner's Safe Cure, which is known to be the only means for the prevention and cure of kidney disease, as can be testified to in every community. In the pamphlets referred to there appear a number of testimonials from parties who speak in the highest terms of how they have in many instances been restored to health by Warner's Safe Cure, after having been given up by doctors to die, and attached to those statements are the fac simile signatures of the parties themselves.

I am personally aware that all the testimonials published by this firm are genuine and are the voluntary statements of persons who are anxious to manifest their gratitude for the unexpected return of health and vigor which Warner's Safe Cure has brought them. To make assurance doubly sure it can be added that Messrs. H. H. Warner & Co. have for years published a standing offer of $5,000 to any one who will prove to an impartial referee that any testimonial published by them is not, so far as they know, genuine, and absolutely true. What more does "Subscriber" desire to convince him, in addition to his own statement, that his readers all tell him that Warner's Safe Cure has done more good for them than they have received from the doctors.

In view, Mr. Editor, of the many persons who are sacrificed daily to the bigotry and ignorance of physicians who persist in treating patients for symptoms called consumption, apoplexy, brain troubles and nervous disorders, when the real cause is disease of the kidneys—which should be detected and quickly eradicated by the use of Warner's Safe Cure—I maintain that the value of those pamphlets, which place in the hands of the public the means of knowing the truth, cannot be overestimated.

FAIR PLAY.

A Medium Exposed.

A Jackson, Mich., despatch says: Mrs. Dr. Brooks, great inspiration medium, has been several weeks in the city and had hundreds of patrons, many being people of good standing and intelligence. Her tests astounded the most critical skeptics, and she succeeded in creating quite a stir. Mr. G. M. Stanley visited her for the declared purpose of exposing her methods, and succeeded. Dr. Brooks's scheme was to have the victim write a communication to a dead friend, which the doctor reproduced and answered, signing the dead one's name. In fact, a table placed in the centre of the room was covered with ordinary newspapers, and upon this the seeker was required to write, afterwards folding his message, which madame placed out in his pocket, and returning to an inner room, while madame went into a trance and wrote the reply. Mr. Stanley as soon as his letter to his dead friend was written, grabbed the newspaper from off the table, regardless of the shrieks of the medium, and found inserted under it a large sheet of carbon manifold paper, underneath which was a sheet of white paper. By this device the letters of victims were reproduced upon the paper read and answered by madame. She acknowledged her guilt and hastily packed up and departed for Detroit.

Ambition's Goal.

City Business Man—"At last I am rich enough to retire from business."

Friend—"What are you going to do?"

"I am going to buy the old farm that I ran away from and live on it."

During the United States civil war 267 Union soldiers were executed for desertion.

It is estimated that the damage caused to rolling stock by the late collision on the Intercolonial Railway will amount to $25,000.

It is estimated that nine-tenths of the travel done is for the pleasure of people. Business necessity comes next, and urgent demand, as in case of illness, and so on, comes next. In other words, men and women, of whatever status and occupation in life, gladly embrace a holiday chance for change.

On Saturday morning A. R. Seamans, a telegraph operator at Sharbot Lake, went to Kingston, and left for Rockport to spend a holiday. He left the G. T. R. express at Lansdowne. While walking on the track a train coming around a curve struck him, mutilating his body, from the effects of which he died several hours afterwards. Deceased was 25 years of age and unmarried.

Electricity for the cure of consumption has attracted much attention of late years, either for generating ozone for inhalation, or for its influence on the vaso-motors as a current, or as static electricity in baths. Dr. Libermann, of Strasburg, employs the continuous current, his view being that pulmonary phthisis is due to a lesion of the pneumogastric nerves, caused by a cold in predisposed subjects. According to Dr. Libermann, the first stage of the disease, that of congestion of the pneumogastrics, is always accompanied by paralysis of one or both vocal cords. In the second period, miliary granulations appear in the larynx, lungs and elsewhere. With the third stage, that of proliferation of the connective tissue of the affected nerves, come dyspnœa and hæmoptysis. The last stage of phthisis corresponds to the destruction of the myeline from fatty degeneration. Dr. Libermann denies the specificity of the bacillus, which he says may be found in simple bronchitis and catarrh pneumonia.

FIGHTING WOMEN.

Heroines Who Went to the Wars with Their Liege Lords.

In warlike times, when battle was the business of life and victory over a foe the highest honor that could be had, when home in the true sense there was none and when castles were less houses for pleasant living than strongholds to shelter raiders and resist assault, women were as heroic as their age. If they were not so accurate in their aim as the archers, of whom it is said every English bowman "bore under his girdle twenty-four Scots," they knew how to man the ramparts and defend the bridges as well as their lords themselves. Womanliness in the bower, dignity in the hall, courage in the castle—that was the whole duty of these noble women of a rude but manly age, and to their example, their influence and their shaping power as mothers England owes much of her greatness and half of her strength. Letting Boadicea pass as an example of the feminine fighting blood, we find in Dame Nichola de Camville an early specimen of the warlike political woman. She took the royal side in the famous war with the barons, and held Lincoln castle against Gilbert de Gaunt first for King John and afterwards for Henry III., till the battle called Lincoln fair broke her power. The beautiful Countess of Salisbury, she who was so ardently beloved by the third Edward, was another instance of feminine daring in her case coupled with the purest and most graceful sweetness. Black Agnes was again a heroine of the strong type, and Queen Philippa, Queen Margaret and others of the same kind honored their adopted nationality by their courage and devotion. Meaner women were as brave. In a skirmish at Newcastle in 1173 Leonard Dacres had in his army "many desperate women who, there, gave the adventure of their lives and fought right stoutly." And at the end of the last century and the beginning of this about half a dozen women in the white enlisted as privates in the army and served their time as gallantly as men. Miss Jennie Cameron, Shelah and Jacobite, was an other example of the fighting women with whom war had something and disguised the trades design.

[illegible]

When she rode into the camp of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the head of her clansmen, she was in a bay velvet dressed out in green trappings trimmed with gold. Her hair was tied behind in loose bunches and covered by a velvet cap with scarlet feathers. In her hand in lieu of a whip she carried a drawn sword, and for her dash she was dubbed "Colonel Cameron" by the prince. Everybody's.

How He Caught an Owler.

Some of the points of Lord Rosebery must be worth attending to. Gladstone, Dodge, Gray [illegible] in the following fashion the other day:

Saturday, [illegible] in the afternoon, [illegible] as a [illegible] as a [illegible] Yet in spite [illegible] Rosebery [illegible] Harcourt [illegible] Yet [illegible] the owls and brings it up last to state.

Charles Dickens would have bottled up inspiration enough from such a scene to last a week.

Too Wicked to Have a Church.

What! Can this be? The Bishop of Gibraltar, having issued a pastoral with the Archbishopric of Canterbury, has come to the conclusion that it is not expedient to build a church on Monte Carlo on the ground that the place is wicked. I came, said the Bishop to Monte Carlites, "not to call sinners but the righteous to repentance." Such cut and dry cynicism is so startling in a Bishop that I cannot help thinking there must be some other motive behind. Is His Lordship of Gibraltar afraid that the temptations of Monaco might prove too much for a resident chaplain?—*London Truth.*

New Turn to the "Sister" Joke.

Ned—So she said she would be a sister to you? Jack—Yes. Ned—What did you say to that? Jack—I told her we would compromise on aunt. I was too young to be her brother.

Dr. Wm. R. Gowers, Professor of Medicine in the Owens College, Manchester, England, in writing of Bright's disease, says: "The blood becomes speedily deteriorated by the unnatural drain through the kidneys. It becomes more watery and poorer in albumen while urea, uric acid and the extractives are unduly accumulated in it." Warner's Safe Cure will restore the kidneys to a healthy condition and purify the blood.

Gad's Hill Place, the "grave red brick house" which Charles Dickens bought about thirty years ago, and in which he died a dozen years later, is said to be now on the market.

In the southern portion of New Hampshire, where a year ago there were two feet of snow on the ground, farmers are planting peas and getting ready for spring work generally.

One of the difficulties which have stood in the way of the substitution of paper pulp for wood in the manufacture of pencils has been the toughness of the paper covering, and its consequent resistance to the action of a knife. By a new process which has recently been patented, the molecular cohesion of the paper is modified in such a manner that it can be cut as easily as cedar wood. The paper is first of all made into tubes, and a quantity of them are placed in a frame at the lower end of a cylinder. The substance which is to be used as a marking material is placed in the cylinder while in a plastic condition, and sufficient pressure is then applied to force it into the hollow centres of the paper tubes. After the completion of the process the pencils are gradually dried at increasing temperatures during a period of six days, and they are then plunged into a vessel of molten paraffin wax, which has the effect of modifying the texture of the paper pulp in the manner described.

True to Brother Spear.

I can't decide why Brother Spear
Was never joined to me.
It wasn't because the good old Dear
Had not every chance to be
If he very reasoned the time
That Womanhood is true.
It's more than probable that I'm
The one he had in view
For search the city now and high
And no one will you hear
To say or hint (or what that!)
Was true to brother Spear.

I mothered all his daughters when
Their mothers life cut short,
Although they didn't—now or then—
So much as thank me for it
I laughed—to my soul shrieked with inside rage—
And said I didn't care
When he praised me of spare the age
Remembered my virgin hair
[illegible] why
[illegible] was
[illegible] that I
Was true to brother Spear.

I knelt a [illegible] in the church
Near [illegible]
[illegible] search
With [illegible] eyes
[illegible] to play
[illegible] free
[illegible]
He went and took another pew—
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]