

WOMAN'S WORLD.

A YOUNG WOMAN OF PROMINENCE IN KINDERGARTEN WORK.

The National Council of Women—The Woman Buyer—Wet Weather Dress. Rose Hartwick Thorpe—Cottons and Couches—Seasonable Suggestions.

Among the kindergarten workers who have taken a prominent part in this branch of education in Philadelphia is Miss Constance Mackenzie, who holds the position of director of the kindergartens. Some years ago a movement was inaugurated to establish mothers' meetings in connection with kindergartens and parallel with such meetings to



MISS CONSTANCE MACKENZIE.

start classes for the training of mothers in kindergarten principles, in order that home education and kindergarten education might be mutually supplementary. The movement was at first so slight as hardly to attract public attention. But it has been gaining impetus to such a degree that in February, 1897, it will gather all its forces into one in a first national manifestation at Washington.

The value of such meetings cannot be overestimated. It matters not whether the parents, by reason of culture and special study, are already in harmony with the kindergarten and the school or whether they represent the most ignorant elements in the city, the results of the connection made between home and the school or kindergarten are threefold:

First.—It is a help to the mother, who, seeing her child from the point of view of the kindergarten or teacher, comes there, in the light of fuller knowledge, to a clearer understanding of his needs.

Second.—It is a help to the kindergarten or the teacher, who, seeing the child from the point of view of the home, can adjust her individual management to her clearer knowledge of his character and home conditions.

Third.—It is a help to the child, by reason of the mutual enlightenment and assistance of mother, kindergarten and teacher, whose forces are thus directed into the same channel instead of dividing into different directions, to the weakening of the influence of both.

The day will come when every kindergarten and every school shall be considered incomplete unless, in estimating the factors essential to success, the mothers' meeting holds a prominent place.

The National Council of Women.

The annual executive meeting of the National Council of Women will be held this year in Boston, Dec. 2-4, in the hall of the Y. M. C. A. The meetings of the National Council as such occur triennially in Washington.

This coming session in Boston, while primarily the annual business meeting of the board, will include three public gatherings of great interest. At these meetings prominent women from all over the country will be present, and the occasion will be a notable one.

One of these meetings will be given to the consideration of the work of the organizations composing the council. Another will be devoted to the work of the standing committees. Representative workers from all the organizations will thus be heard from in regard to the lines of work unitedly attempted by the council. The third, or final, session will be given to the consideration of the general subjects which are under the charge of heads of departments. Among these subjects will be religion, philanthropy, education, moral reform, social economics and others. The public meetings will be held Thursday and Friday mornings, Dec. 8 and 4, and Friday evening. Reduced rates will be given on all railroads if the attendance numbers 100.

The Countess of Aberdeen cannot return from British Columbia in time for the meeting. But the International Council will be represented by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, its vice president at large and former president of the National Council of the United States. The Woman's Council of Canada will be represented by its corresponding secretary, Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, and also by Mrs. Archibald, president of the Halifax local council. Miss Frances E. Willard, the first president of the National Council, is expected to be present.

Among others in attendance will probably be Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, the vice president of the council; Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, former corresponding secretary of the council, and Mrs. J. Ellen Foster.

The National Women's Republican association, of which Mrs. Foster is president, will also be represented by its secretary, Mrs. Emily Chase.

The Woman's Relief corps will be represented by its national president, Mrs. Agnes Hitt, and by Mrs. Kate Brownlee Sherwood, chairman of the committee on patriotic instruction, who will speak on the subject of "The Higher Citizenship."

The Woman Buyer.

"The need of assistance from saleswomen in buying certain lines of goods

is recognized by all merchants," says the Chicago Dry Goods Reporter.

"Women are peculiarly fitted to select certain goods for the trade. In matters pertaining to the dress and adornment of her sex, woman is by nature and education gifted with more intelligence than man. That this superior endowment gives her qualifications for buying which a man does not and cannot possess follows logically. That the merchant cannot afford to overlook or undervalue the peculiar abilities of the woman buyer, and that he should give them the fullest exercise possible, is more strongly realized now than ever before.

"In the conduct of millinery business woman has for many years shown her ability to manage affairs successfully in the province naturally hers. For the same reason that millinery has been largely monopolized by woman certain departments of dry goods are falling to her lot. Some of the largest stores in the country place the buying for certain departments entirely in the hands of the women who manage those departments, and their success in buying has justified the confidence reposed in them. These women are in constant touch with their customers, due to the fact that they are head saleswomen of their departments and know every feminine whim to be gratified. Their judgment in selecting goods is intuitive, and the men for whom they buy and of whom they buy are willing witnesses to their success as buyers.

"The woman buyer is the outcome of the woman department manager. As the latter increases in number the former will increase, though not in the same proportion."

Wet Weather Dress.

Our winters are so sure to have many days and even weeks when the pavements are wet and the crossings muddy that business women all over the country are coming to see the necessity of a dress adapted to the weather, and not a few have in their wardrobes a cloth gown built with a skirt that reaches to the ankles or shoe tops, with a coat and gaiters to match. The gown is made of some firm—preferably lightweight—cloth that has been sponged before making, so as to prevent shrinkage afterward. Often these gowns are faced with leather or rubber. With the skirt is worn a pretty stylish blouse or bodice. The gaiters to match the skirt make the dress look longer than it really is and the feet look smaller and less conspicuous, while the jacket like the skirt looks much better than a jacket of a contrasting color, which would draw more attention to the broken lines and the shortened skirt. Haircloth of the best quality may also be used to stiffen such skirts at the bottom, as it is little affected by wetting.

The hat may be any one of the stylish felt models in the fashion, trimmed simply with quills or cock feathers. Dressed in this costume, a rainy day has no terrors. If one does not care to have a gown made with a shortened skirt, one may be made the usual walking length, but bound with leather or rubber, with buttons, appear to be a finish to a tailor made gown. These are placed at intervals around the skirt, and are so arranged that by their use the skirt can be made to just reach the shoe tops and hang well.—New York Post.

Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe, who wrote "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight," lives in a pretty frame cottage at Pacific Beach, near San Diego, Cal. When asked recently to tell how she came to write the poem that has made her famous, she replied: "I cannot remember when I did not write poetry. I have done it ever since I was a child. My mother did not approve of my writing. One day after school I went to my room. I had been studying the historic period of the poem, and the incident impressed itself so strongly on my mind that I felt impelled to write about it. I was about half way through when my mother came in, saying a young friend had come to spend the afternoon and take tea with me. In great distress I called out, 'Oh, mother, can't she wait a little while?'"

"My mother, thinking I was solving a hard problem in arithmetic, said she would amuse my friend till I could leave. At last I finished it and put it away. Two or three years later I wanted a poem for publication in a Detroit paper to which I had been in the habit of contributing short poems gratuitously. I was unable at the time to write, as usual, an original poem for the next issue, and, on looking over my papers, found this one, which I decided to send, though doubting its acceptance, as it was so long. A day or two afterward I received a note from the editor, complimenting my last contribution highly and prophesying for it great and immediate success."—Woman's Journal.

Cottons and Couches.

The beautiful cottons shown in the upholstery departments of the shops make selections for pillow and cushion covers an embarrassing pleasure. As each piece is unrolled and thrown over the one just seen to this new design. The most effective are in the oriental patterns and colorings, and as 40 cents the yard is quite a maximum price, they are within the reach of most purses. These cottons, either of the heavy quality like the dentons and tickings which come in a variety of designs, or the lighter weights, are the most sensible for the persistent use which the family sitting room gets and are as handsome and artistic while they last as the most expensive brocades and tapestries often used.

Edmund Russell's favorite saying that "form and color are cheap" should encourage the chateleine of moderate income. A little trained intelligence in the matter of selection is all that is needed for admirable results. Pile a plain covered divan with cushions of figured patterns, not in a kaleidoscopic

jumble, but with some regard to the harmony of tones and colors. Naturally a figured couch or recess should be treated in the opposite way. Choose preferably plain colors as backgrounds for carpets, couch covers, portieres and wall papers, or certainly small pattern designs, and the risk in building against them is not so great for the amateur.—New York Herald.

Dress Skirts.

Modistes are overwhelmed with inquiries concerning the length, width and stiffness of dress skirts for the coming season. Four to 4½ yards is the average circumference of the newest skirts, and the seven gored model is still a leading favorite. The skirts have no ripples whatever, but the graceful, moderately expanding effect of each separate gore is plainly defined, and all exaggerations in width have wholly vanished. The back of the skirt is invariably full, and the former stiff interlining reduced to a facing, and where silk linings are not desired one of their satisfactory substitutes—repped suraline or rustle percaline—is used by the modiste, with or without a moreen or haircloth facing.

Many of the very best dressmakers are using soft, thin outing cloth as an interlining for wedding toilets and gowns of light silk or satin. This gives the skirt a body and a heavy, elegant effect and improves the hang of the skirt. It is better than the cotton flannels formerly used because, while it is quite as protective, it is much lighter. In some cases, where the figure is inclined to stoutness, the outing cloth reaches only two-thirds of the length of the skirt on the front and sides, but the entire length in the back.—New York Correspondent.

An Era of Buckles.

This is pre-eminently the era of the buckle. Metal clasps of all shades and varieties are shown. The most beautiful and costly are of gold and jewels. My lady prefers this season a jeweled silver buckle. They are shown in openwork silver, set with lapis lazuli, carbochons, sapphires, green garnets and other odd stones, some of the quaintest designs being set with white topaz on a dull silver arabesque back. Some of the prettiest and most costly Russian buckles sold at the jewelry stores are of gilded silver enameled in a variety of colors. There is no prettier clasp for the belt of a robe of creamy wool than one of bright silver set thickly with turquoise. Some of the most interesting ornaments of this kind are of old Dutch pattern, copied from the quaint silver buckles worn by the beaus and maidens of New Amsterdam.

A simple belt buckle of silver may be purchased for the modest price of \$1, but when elaborately wrought and set with precious stones it will cost from \$5 to \$25. Turquoise buckles are \$30, old Dutch silver buckles are \$7 to \$12, while a buckle of gold may range from \$15 to \$300, according to the work and the jewels used.—New York Tribune.

Ordination of Sara L. Stoner.

The ordination of Mrs. Sara L. Stoner to the work of the Christian ministry occurred Oct. 25, 1896, in the Universalist church at Blanchester, O. Mrs. Stoner has been doing efficient work as a licensed minister for the past six years. She is the wife of Rev. J. A. Stoner, pastor of the Universalist church, Milford, O.

A unique feature of the ordination service was the fact that both her husband and her oldest daughter assisted in the service, the latter singing in the choir. Mrs. Stoner has two regular appointments. She is 43 years of age, the mother of four children and a graduate of Buchtel college, Akron, O.

Mrs. Stoner has been a lifelong advocate and worker in the cause of equal suffrage. She assisted Laura M. Johns in the campaign for the suffrage amendment in Kansas in 1894. At present she is the president of the Civic League of Milford, O. She is a forcible lecturer upon temperance and other reform topics and a woman of rare executive ability.—Exchange.

Co-operative Housekeeping.

Six women students of Bellamy who are employed in the American paper goods factory at Kensington, Conn., have put their principles in active operation. These young women have leased a house, in which they live and have their being. Everything except their clothing is owned in common, and they take turns in doing the housework. Two of them do it for one week, then another pair assumes the responsibility. So successful has this plan proved that more have applied than can be accommodated, and it is proposed to lease the Hotchkiss house, engage a servant and enlarge the scope of usefulness and happiness. One of the rigidly enforced rules of this colony is that no male company shall be admitted to the house.—Troy Times.

The rather eccentric fad for wearing live insects as jewelry seems to be increasing, and the Japanese terrapin is announced as the latest victim. It is reported that the terrapin are being sent out of Japan by thousands to meet the demand in Paris and New York.

New Orleans has recently enacted a law against women wearing hats and bonnets in theaters. The women have yielded gracefully, and a flower in the hair or a bow of ribbon now takes the place of the wrath provoking, much plumed hat.

A committee of prominent Georgia clubwomen will wait on the next legislature with a petition for a law making women eligible for the office of state librarian. In several of the southern states this office is already filled by women.

Fashionable waists are to be large, and, according to the Greek measurement for correct physical proportions, twice the size of the neck is the right size for a symmetrical waist.

There are 28 women enrolled in the graduate department of Yale, an increase of three over last year.

FROM STAGE TO PULPIT.

Once an Actress, Mrs. Peake Is Now an Influential Evangelist.

First a society girl, then leading lady in a stock company of players, Mrs. Edith L. Peake is now rounding out her life as a successful woman evangelist.

Mrs. Peake is from San Francisco. She and her husband, Charles Peake, formerly a business man in San Francisco, arrived in St. Louis Saturday night, after several months of evangelistic work in Kansas. Their last stopping place was Ottawa.

It has been nearly four years since Mrs. Peake entered upon the work of an evangelist, and 16 years since she abandoned the stage. She had been seven years leading lady in a stock company traveling along the coast presenting Shakespearean plays.

"I wonder if you will understand," said Mrs. Peake to a reporter, "when I tell you that the Lord called me to my present work. I had been many years a professing Christian when I was sent for by the presbytery at San Jose, Cal., to deliver an address before them. A few days after they invited me to undertake the work in which I am now engaged."

"How did you chance to leave the stage?"

"Again I must say that it was the Lord's work. I was stricken with typhoid fever, and it was some time after



I recovered before I could return to my work. While I was in an old lady, a very dear friend, kept after me to attend Mr. Moody's meetings, which were in progress in San Francisco. She talked to me about it for six weeks before I consented. At the first meeting I attended the Lord talked with me and I yielded. I left the stage immediately."

"What impelled you to go upon the stage?"

"The necessity of earning a living. I was born in Massillon, O. My mother died when I was quite young, and then my father moved to New York city. 'I went into society there and led about as useless a life as the average society girl. When my father met reverses, and it became necessary for me to support myself, there was seemingly nothing for me to do. Friends advised me to try the stage, but I was born with some pride and would not enter upon such a life in the city where I had always lived in luxury. So I went out to California and had no difficulty in obtaining an engagement with a stock company, finally becoming the leading lady.'"

Mrs. Peake will remain in St. Louis six weeks, she and her husband going then to Kansas City. She is a woman of dignified presence, although inclined to embonpoint. Her hair is golden, and she arranges it in simple fashion.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Revers and Color Effects.

For many seasons past if a gown was made with revers, the number used was always two. Invariably these revers were an exact counterpart of each other. Not only in coloring and design were they alike, but they were the same size and placed on the gown directly opposite one another.

Now the best dressmakers are no longer partial to two revers. Either one or three are used on the most fashionable gowns.

One large revers is regarded as very chic. It is usually of the same material as the bodice and is richly braided or covered with lace.

When three revers are used, they are always graduated in size. The first revers is the smallest, the other two acting as its background.

They look best in three tints of one color, but all sorts of very pretty color effects are possible with them.—New York Journal.

Velvet Cloth Coats.

Some of the new Marlborough coats made of "velvet cloth" are so handsomely decorated that they are wholly appropriate for dress wear. The "velvet cloths" are particularly elegant. They have a velvetlike finish and are as fine grained as satin, and the new weaves show colors in Danish and amaranth red, Cleopatra brown of tawny cast, an attractive blue green and a beautiful greenish blue, copper brown deeper than the Cleopatra dye, gray fawn and hunter's green. The richest of these coats are lined with figured satin, and the revers and cape collar are bordered with a costly passementerie made to represent elaborate bead and silk braidwork.

Flannels.

"Last winter," says a housekeeper, "I had \$50 worth of fine flannels, used in my family, destroyed in the washing—this, too, before the winter was half over. In the spring I sent my daughter to Pratt institute, in Brooklyn, to take a course in laundry work. I have now replaced the flannels, and they are washed each week by our new expert. Flannels and embroideries are the two things that the average or even the exceptionally good washerwoman does not do well, and as not to do well means in their case to ruin beyond redemption I consider it a valuable thing to have one member of the family who understands the method."—New York Times.

Mothers' Meetings.

We have had mothers' meetings connected with church work for the promotion of the spiritual good of the family and mothers' meetings in connection with kindergartens in order to interest all kinds of mothers in the best early education, but as yet the mothers' meetings that shall call together and interest the patrons of each public school for the welfare of their children have scarcely been attempted. In one or two instances where they have been they have been well attended and most helpful. An idea of their special value to the mother may be had from the programmes that one energetic woman teacher has arranged for the winter, when at the weekly meetings authorities on the subject will talk to the mothers about amusements for children, and especially for those who are nervous, "Preventive Measures for Throat and Nasal Troubles" and "Home Training in Cultivating the Reading Habit." Every other week the programmes will consist of a discussion of the lecture given the preceding week and of selections of good music and literature. The work seems an excellent one for the educational chapters of women's clubs to interest themselves in.—New York Post.

The Gibson Girl.

Every little while a discussion arises concerning the characteristics of the American girl, especially her characteristics as she is portrayed by the modern illustrator.

New interest attaches to the subject just now, when it is currently reported that Charles Dana Gibson is hunting for a new Gibson girl. Of course everybody knows that his wife, who was Miss Irene Langhorne, has been his favorite model, but there are those who have tired of this one type, with her imperious bearing and French beauty, and these will not be sorry to hear that the illustrator is seeking another style to make famous.

They are somewhat curious, however, to see what type he will next portray, whether it will be the New England college girl, with her quick intellect and athletic ways, as he has seen her during his summer vacation on the Massachusetts coast, or whether it will be the southern girl, with her clear olive skin and her languishing manners, or the frank Californian, with her rich complexion and her handsome, well developed figure.—Boston Globe.

Embroideries Now a Fad.

Not since the days of our great-grandmothers has so much hand work been seen on the best gowns of the season. It is the chief reason of the costliness of the newest frocks.

Silk embroidery is one of the favorite trimmings this year, and the elaborate designs are all worked by hand.

Bodies and even gowns made entirely of sequins are one of the fashions of the hour, and every separate tiny sequin is sewed to the foundation by hand.

Jeweled lace is much used, and if the lace is worthy its price the jeweling is all hand work.

Many of the collarettes which glisten with spangles have taken days of hard work to fashion, for each spangle has been sewed by hand.

There are more tucks used this year than for many seasons past. They are fine, dainty tucks and are the work of delicate fingers. Many of the little French bodies are entirely of tucks. Tucked sleeves are also much worn. Not only are the sheer fabrics tucked, but many of the heavier materials.

Hemstitching by hand is also much the vogue.—Exchange.

Silk Pouches Go With the Gown.

Broadened silk pouches, with a little fur animal's head at the bottom, are the latest accessory to the fashionable woman's evening toilet.

The pouch closes at the top by ribbon drawstrings, and the wearer carries it by letting it swing from her arm, or she fastens it with a jeweled pin at her waist.

There are long, narrow pouches made purposely to hold the fan, and a variety of others in various shapes for the safe keeping of the handkerchief, bonbon box or powder puff.

The pouches are a rather curious addition to the evening gown. They look best when carried with a costume trimmed with fur, in which case the little animal's head is made of the same fur as that which trims the gown.

Wearing Scarfs.

The wearing of scarfs as a graceful and becoming headress is likely to become a fashion with slender women who know how to wrap themselves picturesquely in airy folds and draperies. The thinner and softer the material the more beautifully it drapes, and the scarf is fastened to the headress or the hair and comes down about the back of the head and throat and over the shoulders and floats airily down to the hem of the gown. But it is a trying fashion for any woman who has not style and grace in her nature and dress.

Household Economics.

The National Household Economics association, which has just held its fourth annual convention in Milwaukee, was organized for the purpose of making the "fashioning of housewives an artistic study" and has succeeded in doing some excellent work. Programmes for study in household economics have been prepared and distributed among many women's clubs and are now being followed by them. The president is Dr. Mary E. Green of Charlotte, Mich.

Gardening for Women.

Gardening for women is engaging attention in Germany, and a horticultural school for girls and women is about to be opened at Berlin. The principal is Fraulein Elvira Castner, who first mooted the idea in a paper read before the Berlin society, Frauenwohl. It is proposed to teach all branches of gardening, and to devote special attention to the production of fruit.

FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

A NEW KIND OF TOP.

It is Especially Fitted For Indoor Spinning and is Easily Made.

Top season is almost over, but every boy who ever spun a top will be interested in making an entirely new kind of top that will spin when you blow upon it.

This top can be made in 15 minutes. Get a piece of stiff cardboard, and cut from it a circular disk about three inches in diameter. At the very center of it make a pin hole, and in regular order



near the outside cut five or six oblique slots so that little pieces or wings of cardboard will turn up, as shown in the cut. One end of these slots may be a quarter of an inch from the edge of the disk and the other end may be several times as far.

An ordinary large sized pin should now be inserted through the hole in the disk and fastened on the underside with wax, so as to form a pivot on which the top will spin. Now get an empty spool and your top is complete. To spin it hold the spool lightly in the mouth, insert the pin in the other end and blow briskly. At once the top will begin to revolve, the action of the air holding it tight against the spool without other support.

Now stop blowing suddenly and the top will drop out of the spool and continue to spin merrily on a table or on a piece of glass or on a smooth floor.—Chicago Record.

The Little Boy Who Ran Away.

"I'm going now to run away," said little Sammy Green one day. "Then I can do just what I choose. I'll never have to black my shoes or wash my face or comb my hair. I'll find a place, I know, somewhere And never have again to fall. That old chip basket—so I will."

"Goodby, mamma!" he said. "Goodby!" He thought his mother then would cry. She only said, "You going, dear?" And didn't shed a single tear. "There, now," said Sammy Green, "I know She does not care if I do go. But Bridget does. She'll have to fill That old chip basket, so she will."

But Bridget only said, "Well, boy, You're off for sure. I wish you joy." And Sammy's little sister Kate, Who swung upon the garden gate, Said anxiously as he passed through, "Tonight whatever will you do When you can't get no 'lasses spread At supper time on top of bread?"

One block from home and Sammy Green's Weak little heart was full of fear. He thought about Red Riding Hood, The wolf that met her in the wood, The beastlike boy who kept so mum When he heard the giant's "Fee, fo, fum," Of the dark night and the policeman. Then poor Sammy homeward ran.

Quick through the alleyway he sped And crawled in through the old woodshed. The big chip basket he did fill. He blacked his shoes up with a will. He washed his face and combed his hair. He went up to his mother's chair And kissed her twice, and then he said, "I'd like some 'lasses top of bread." Mrs. S. T. Perry in San Francisco Examiner.

A Little Trick.

Perhaps some of you may know the trick, but those of you that do not will find it hard to believe that you may plunge your hand into a bowl of water and take from the bottom a ring, or other small object, without getting your hand wet. Let us tell you how to do it.

There is no magic in it, nor is it really a trick, as we have called it. All you have to do is to sprinkle the surface of the water with some powder that has no attraction for the water—something that the water will not wet. Nothing better may be had than powdered lycopodium.

Having thrown a handful of this powder on the surface of the water, plunge your hand in, take up the ring and show the spectators that there is not a drop of moisture on your hand.

The reason is that the lycopodium forms a sort of glove around your hand, to which water will not adhere any more than it will to the back of a duck. Water birds may dive time and again and come to the surface with their feathers as dry as if they had not been under the surface. The lycopodium gives the same quality to your hand.—Philadelphia Times.

Just Like a Circus.

Edith, the little daughter of a physician in Trenton, was very much impressed by her first sight of a boy choir, each member wearing his white surplice. When she reached home, she rushed to her father with the startling intelligence that a lot of boys had gone to church in their nightgowns, and they didn't care a bit, but just stood up and sang as loud as they could. Her father corrected her somewhat hastily. "Surplices, my dear, surplices. Those were surplices," he explained. But Edith was too excited to pay much attention and caught only part of the word. "Circuses! Yes, I should think it was circus." They walked all around just like the circus. And when it was all finally explained to her, she was much surprised and amused and a little shocked at her mistake.—New York Times.

Tale of a Vain Little Chick.

A farmyard chick stood by the horse pond watching a flock of ducklings. Every now and then they put their heads under water and flung their legs up.

"How very ridiculous!" cried the little chick. "That isn't the way to get across. Wait a bit. I'll show you." In plunged the little chick, but instead of getting to the other side it went to the bottom.—Chicago Record.