

# WOMEN AND FASHION

**The Woman and the Collar.**  
Society may assume that the sign of woman's emancipation from the seclusion of the harem or the slavery of the savage tribe is her education, or her domestic responsibility, or her civic importance. Not at all. The symbol of her freedom to do as she pleases and to be what she pleases is her possession of the right to wear the masculine linen collar. Comfort, trimness, respectability, dignity are all entrenched behind the spotless white of the carefully laundered band. Safe in its firm grasp, a woman may be active or idle, warm or cool, calm or excited.

The history of the collar is interesting. In its present form it is, of course, a modern device. Those who would trace it to the necklace of teeth collected by the savages mistake its real significance. It began its existence in civilization, not in barbarism. The ruff invented to hide a royal scar evolved into the lace ruche and the linen band. The Byronic collar proclaimed laxity of morals, as the white stock declared for the stern virtue of the Puritan. But the conventional modern collar has encircled the neck of the modern free man for many years, and has apparently established its claim as a kind of insignia of liberty.

Let the woman beware how the charms of lingerie or lace beguile her from her right in the plain linen collar. When her role is that of princess or queen, she may don the necklace or the ruff. When she claims her right to a fair partnership, a good day's work and a share of the profits—let her wear girdle or truth or love—let her wear happily the white linen yoke, at once buckler and badge.—Youth's Companion.

## The Well-Dressed Woman.

Always be well gloved and well shod, and the dress will take care of itself. "It is very simple," advises the woman who has never earned a slice of bread and butter in her life, and would nobly starve if she were suddenly left to support herself. Every one knows that good gloves and good shoes are a necessary part of her dress, and she knows too, that much depends on her personal appearance; but when the rent of her hall bedroom is paid, or perhaps of the little flat where her mother keeps house for herself and several small brothers and sisters, and when the milk and gas and bread and other bills are paid, to be well gloved and well shod is far less simple than it sounds.

To be well gloved one must have more than one pair, and ditto with shoes. Sometimes one can spare the change to buy gloves, but by the time she has never earned a slice of bread and butter in her life, she has good gloves and shabby shoes; she now has good shoes and shabby gloves. And so it goes. "Have one good tailor-made suit and plenty of shirt waists," advises another woman. Well and good.

Shortwaists mean laundry bills, and unless a tailored suit is of the more or less expensive cloth, which will not shrink with the first foggy evening or wear up rough after a few outings, the effect of trying to be well dressed on one suit fails after a week or two.—Leslie's Weekly.

## A Form that Fits All.

Through the ingenuity of a New York man, shopkeepers and dressmakers will be able to get along hereafter with one kind of dress form. Long waists and short waists all look alike on this body portion, which can be adjusted to fit anything the human form can wear. The form is made similar to those now in use, except that the model can be moved up and down on the upright rod that runs through the center and affixed at any height over the hip line that may be desired. In the old-style form a short-waisted waist did not fit on a long-waisted model, and vice versa, and both for window display and dress-making a number of different forms were required, each for a different type of figure. Either for fitting or display, this invention is expected to be of value, both in the saving of money and time, for not only will one take the place of several of the old designs, but it will not be necessary to sound about for the suitable form for each occasion.

## Women's Corsets.

It is not a hundred years ago since stays for women were composed not of whalebone or hardened leather, but of bars of iron and steel from three inches to four inches broad and eighteen inches long. Again, during the reign of George III, the top of the steel stay had a long stocking needle attached to it to prevent girls from spoiling their shape by stooping too much over their work. In the days of Catherine the Medicis, thirteen inches was the fashionable size for the waist, and to achieve this an overcast of very thin steel plate was worn. It was made in two pieces, one longitudinal and the other a sort of hump and pin, much like an ordinary box fastening. The best corsets to-day are made on a foundation of whalebone, which has steadily risen in price during the last twenty-five years from \$3,500 to \$15,000 a ton. Cheap whalebone can be bought for 150 and \$200 a ton, but it soon dries and becomes brittle, thus spoiling the corset as well as the figure.

## Health and Beauty Hints.

Physicians now urge that the powder puff and pad be discarded as germ carriers, and that absorbent cotton be used in their place.

A person who desires excellent health must sleep with the bedroom windows open every night. Fresh air is the best blood purifier and cosmetic in the world.

Eggs made of cheesecloth, eight inches square, filled with oatmeal, some powdered borax, pulverized castile soap and a little powdered orris root, and in the bath are delightfully refreshing.

The white of an egg beaten in lemon juice and slightly sweetened with powdered sugar is a simple and pleasant remedy for hoarseness. The mixture



PICTURESQUE GRAY COSTUME. MODISH COAT SUIT.

This season promises to outshine its predecessors in picturesqueness of dress, due largely to the revival of empire frocks. The one on the left is white gray chiffon voile, with an invisible check employs a modified sheath skirt, and the perfect fitting surprise bodice is outlined with black satin folds and long pendants of same tone, satin ending in black silk tassels fall to knee depth. Large cut steel buttons are fastened in each point on bodice and the long mousquetaire sleeves are finished at hand with a ruff of fine lace. The round collar is braided with black silk soutache and the high stock of the material has a double ruff of narrow lace matching that on sleeves.

The illustration on the right pictures one of the coat suits built on decorative lines. Note the length of skirt and coat. The combination is smoke gray cloth with black braid frogs and narrow black soutache effectively applied on coat lapels, collar and cuffs, and also on narrow band edging foot of skirt. A large purple satin hat with shaded plumes in same tone forms a fitting accompaniment.

should be slowly dissolved in the mouth and swallowed.

In order to be in perfect health one must be temperate in eating. The meals also should be regular. Regularity is one of the golden rules of a well-ordered life.

For a slight cut there is nothing better to control the hemorrhage than to apply a cold compress such as is used by grocers and market men. Bind a piece of cloth over the cut.

**Hanging Pictures.** A safe rule to remember when hanging pictures is that the middle of the picture should be on a level with the eyes. Of course, if you are unusually tall this rule does not hold good. Do not mix several kinds and types of pictures together. Let all the water colors, oils or engravings be placed in separate rooms, or, at any rate, on different walls. Above all, do not overcrowd your walls. A few well-chosen pictures look far better than a number of mediocre ones.

**New Styles in Veils.** Among the new veils there is one in which the loosely woven net is of a double or a heavy thread and another in which it looks like a fine silk web. This last comes dotted or plain and is extra wide. Chinese embroidered bands are especially useful this season for small revers, vests, cuffs, etc. The long-handled sunshade is superseded by the very long-handled umbrella, to aid in completing the direction of fashion.

**Imitation of Hard Woods.** Mahogany and Oak Are Easily Simulated by the Manufacturers.

Perhaps no set of mea appreciate the seriousness of the timber-supply question more than those engaged in the manufacture of furniture, says the New York Post. They have realized for some years that a pinch in the hard-wood market is sure to come and they have succeeded in coping with the situation by the practice of veneering and the imitation of highest-priced hard-woods.

During the last few years the great increase in the price of hard woods has created a strong demand for wood which can be used in imitation. The two woods that are most successfully imitated are mahogany and oak, particularly the quartered oak in the golden and darker finishes. Almost without exception the manufacturer markets these imitations either as imitations or under some registered trade name and does not pretend to deceive his customers.

For imitating mahogany cherry was formerly used almost entirely, but the diminished supply and the increased price of this wood have led manufacturers to seek a substitute which would lend itself more readily to the stain than cherry and at the same time show the grain and hold the gloss.

For these reasons birch, especially young birch, maple, beech and gum are extensively used for all parts of furniture. Even in the better grades of mahogany furniture birch and maple stained to a mahogany finish are often used for posts and frames, while genuine mahogany in the form of veneer is used for panels, tops and rails.

In making imitation quartered oak almost any wood can be used, since in this case the original grain of the wood is first covered with a filler and then the quartering is printed on in dark ink by the impression of actual quartered oak prepared by special processes.

Birch, maple, poplar and plain sawed oak are commonly used for this work.

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