# WOMAN'S REALM

BLACK VELVET AND ERMINE COMBINATION.

## GOWNS FOR THE NEW YEAR

### MODIFICATION OF EARLIER FASHIONS —ACCESSORIES TO EVENING TOILETS.

Paris, December 14.

For street and visiting gowns various shades of brown seem to be gaining in popularity. Velvet in reddish brown is effective, combined with a light shade of tan, in cloth. A handsome suit of this sort has a close but flaring skirt of the velvet, with a stitched pattern of the cloth running about the skirt and up one side. The pattern is composed of leaves, some of which are veined in gold and others done in gold outline on the velvet. The bolero jacket is of the velvet, laid in shingles, with collar and lapels that fall below the waist line in stole fashion, done in cloth, with edge of sable. The underblouse is of cream silk, inset with squares of ecru guipure.

Suits in two shades are considered "chic." The following gown in silk and wool would serve as an excellent model for a cloth gown in two shades of the same color or in a cloth and velvet combination. The material is a light green wool, with irregular lines of dull red running through it, and is made up with dark green silk. The foundation skirt has a shaped flounce of the silk, arranged in shingles and flaring considerably. Over this the drop skirt of the stuff is arranged, in several pointed panels, joined together by an embroidery of dull red and dark green cord, and finished in the same way. This skirt is cut to hang close to the figure, with the points well held out by the flare of the foundation skirt. For the top there is a blouse jacket of the wool, tucked into a belt of the silk. The jacket is made in several panels, joined by lines of embroidery similar to those on the skirt. It is double breasted and closed with large buttons of some dull red metal, with tracery of greenish bronze running over it. There are revers of tucked silk. There is to finish a military cravat of white satin, with small turnover top and scarf of black velvet, embroidered with gold.

#### PRETTY STYLE OF JACKET.

Many of these blouse jackets cut to close in double breasted fashion have the lining elaborately trimmed so they may be worn with the fronts turned back. Very neat is one of black velvet, with the white satin lining embroidered with fine gold and black braid. These fronts when turned back make handsome revers to the jacket. A front lining of fur is comfortable, and makes a handsome ornamentation when the garment is thrown open.

The loose, or half-loose cutaway is a modish shape, and far newer than the half-fitted box coat. It has revers, is double breasted for the space of four buttons, and has skirts, longer, but similar in shape to those on a man's cutaway coat. A fashionable tailor has just turned out a suit in black velvet and sable cut in this way. Fur trimmed suits seem far more generally used this year than heretofore, and the most costly furs are cut up for trimmings. A shaped flounce of fur is no uncommon addition to a cloth skirt that is to accompany a fur trimmed jacket. The blouse bodice is a charming model in fur, and is best with a skirt on which there is some fur trimming.

The gray Persian lamb, so fashionable this winter, is charmingly made up with narrow vest and tight undersleeves of gray velvet, striped with silver braid. The fur sleeves are close, but have turn up cuffs that are flaring. The shape of the jacket is the blouse, belted, and there are small, close and pointed hip pieces. The belt is of silver cloth. Worn with a skirt of gray cloth and gray hat, trimmed with a lining of turquoise blue to brim and long gray feathers, this makes a perfect costume.

If one still fancies the fur bolero, the best model shows a vest of some second material, such as another fur or velvet. But, prettier still, is to reverse this idea and wear the short jacket made of cloth or velvet, with a longer vest of some kind of fur. On a garment of this sort another fur may be used to trim the edges of the bolero and collar.

A trimming of fur is not confined to cloth or velvet gowns, but is equally suitable to wool costumes. A wool two-piece suit may have shaped flounce of fur on skirt and revers and vest of the same on the jacket. Such a combination is more distinctively a model of this season than is a cloth and fur suit. The thin, short haired furs are of course preferred.

#### FOR A DINNER GOWN.

For a ceremonious dinner gown white satin embroidered with jet is an excellent choice. Such a gown is effectively trimmed with bows of turquoise blue chiffon.

Cloth of gold is favorably regarded for evening gowns, more especially when it has an effect approaching the bronze. Combined with bronze gauze and ecru lace it makes a most effective reception gown. Most of the gold tissue used now is nearer the tone of old gold than of the brighter metal.

Nothing is more worn for evening gowns than silver spangled tulle. It is used for entire gowns and to trim gowns of plain or embroidered silk. A rather odd dancing frock has skirt and vest to corsage of white tulle, embroidered with silver. This is made up with a tiny bolero jacket of pink velvet that meets on the bust with a large bow and slopes away in irregular folds to the waist line behind. From here two long velvet sash or redingote ends fall to the bottom of the skirt. The velvet bolero makes the only edge, a rather sévere one, to the décolletage, but there are short, close shoulder sleeves of the embroidered tulle.

For a dinner gown in the Empire effect comes a model in pale yellow panne, fitted to the figure, with the exception of the front breadth, which hangs full from clusters of small pleats. Over this is a mantle in the Empire style, of white net, inset with figures in gold tissue, and a running pattern done in écru entredeux. This falls from under a band that suggests a bolero jacket, and is made of lace, studded with blue stones, and run through with tiny black velvet. On one side of the décolletage is a spray of yellow asters with black centres.

#### EVENING SLEEVES.

There is a great variety in the sleeves demanded for evening gowns. The usual form is the short, close shoulder sleeve, which is, however, not always becoming. This little sleeve may quite properly be puffed a trifle, or it may be turned into a very short, full ruffle. The elbow sleeve belongs more to dinner gowns than to gowns intended for the ballroom. A pretty effect is gained by using a fichu over the arms and about the décolletage. The corsage should in this case be attached by straps of ribbon, lace or jewels over the shoulders, and the fichu is draped about the arms and the top of the corsage, fastening in a knot on one side.

A pretty finish to a silk skirt may be made by a shaped ruffle, finished by rows of heavy cords. On a gown of purple panne there are twelve of these in white satin on a flounce of purple satin. The corsage of white lace has a little jacket of the panne, with undervest that turns into a sash of the purple satin, with white cords on the ends. There is an air of simplicity to this gown that is rather quaint.

The popular high necked gown that shall be elaborate, while not a full evening gown, is nicely effected in some thin fabric, like mousseline de soie and perforated velvet. A tunic of perforated rose colored velvet over skirts of pink mousseline de sole has for a top a blouse of the thin stuff, with deep shoulder collar of the perforated velvet. The yoke and elbow sleeves are of lace over mousseline de sole. The deep collar is laced across in front with narrow black velvet ribbon, and on the bottom of the tunic some touches of black velvet add character.

The straight busk effect of the Pompadour bodice is, of course, fashionable now, and there are ways of effecting it without resorting to the severe Pompadour bodice. A plain corsage, covered with lace, may have the lace pattern carried down to the skirt in a point that produces much the same effect as the long busked corsage. This is pretty, for the blouse may be slightly fulled, and therefore far more graceful in effect than the stiff lines of the original model. The French dressmakers copy freely from old plates, but rarely fail to improve on them.

For separate stocks the Directoire, or some high shape—it is called by several names—is the best choice. To be worn with a flannel or velvet shirt waist a Directoire collar in white satin, embroidered in fine black velvet ribbon, and finished with a soft black satin scarf, is the first choice. Another model has the flaring military choker, opening over a close second choker of some soft material, and completed by a soft, loosely knotted scarf. Chokers are really much less elaborate than they were a season ago.

## HIS FIRST AND LAST CHRISTMAS.

Trim the Old Year a Christmas tree,
He'll not be with us very long,
Make his last week a merry one,
With laughter, dancing, and with song.

His tastes are fine, and you all know,
That Pinaud's Perfumes suit him well.
Let's give him some of every kind,
Which he loves best we none can tell.

A bottle of Pinaud's Tonique,
And one of Extrait Vegetal,
And all the Perfumes Pinaud makes,
At Christmas time, give him we shall.

Perhaps to others, ere he dies,
These treasures he may give away,
Give to the friends he loves the best,
In memory of this happy day.

'Mid blossoms sweet, his head laid low,
The Old Year lies, his work all done,
His Christmas gifts from Ed. Pinaud,
Left to the heir, young Nineteen-One.

## CHRISTMAS MERRYMAKING

### END OF THE CENTURY INNOVATIONS IN FESTIVITIES—HIGH PRICES PAID FOR DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS.

How to entertain the children, of smaller and larger growth as well—for all are children on Christmas Day—is one of the problems of the season. The giving of expensive entertainments in private homes is an end of the century innovation in this country. Thirty years ago these were limited to music, lectures and recitations, with sometimes the help of a humorist. Since that time there has been a growing tendency to copy England in employing professionals, and now talent is engaged for private houses at a cost ranging from $15 for Punch and Judy to $2,000 for opera stars. Five years ago a vaudeville entertainment for a private house or club would not have been considered high class. To-day it is the fad, and has been elevated almost to the standard of the musical field. For the little ones Punch and Judy is as fascinating as it was to their forebears, and Santa Claus, in velvet robe and cap, his long, white beard still bristling with the icy winds of the snow country, is just as captivating as ever.

"Mamma," shrieked a youngster last year, as the good saint, bearing his load, pranced into the room, "ask him to stay to supper!"—this being the acme of hospitality according to baby ideas.

"You can ask him," responded the mother; and Alfred, seizing Santa Claus by the coat, gave a pressing invitation.

"To supper!" exclaimed Santa Claus in great amaze. "My man, do you not know that I never get a minute to eat; that it is Christmas somewhere all the time?"

Alfred, without evincing a particle of perturbation, turning to his mother said, "Why, mamma, he looks just as if he ate a lot!"

As Santa Claus was Uncle Jack, whose appetite had never been known to fail him, this unplanned part of the programme received hearty applause.

Another little boy had determined to satisfy his curiosity as to Santa Claus's mode of entrance to the house, and escaping from his mother's vigilance discovered the saint eating bonbons in the butler's pantry. Rushing back to the assembled family in the library, he shouted: "Santa Claus has come! He got down somehow and is eating candy in there!"

This year this youngster, remembering Santa Claus's sweet tooth, insisted on leaving a box of candy marked "For Santa Claus" in his stocking. Strange as it may seem, when the stocking was explored in the morning the candy was gone and in place of it was a note of thanks signed "Santa Claus."

The marionettes, so popular among the French children, who support with their pennies travelling shows of the kind in the Champs Elysée and other Paris parks, is liked equally well by Young America, and has become one of the favorites among parlor entertainments. It consists of a stage, with settings, scenes, properties and costumed figures, the latter about three feet in height. The entertainment includes a ballet, a prima donna, who comes in, and with the aid of a ventriloquist renders popular songs; a balloon ascension, a mechanical Turk, etc. The dancing skeleton, perhaps, more than all, delights the youngsters. For, while he dances, his bones suddenly fall apart and lie scattered on the floor. Then, before there is time to recover from amazement at the calamity they begin to gather themselves together until again the perfect skeleton whirls about the stage.

Magic always delights the younger members of the family, and the man who shakes an empty handkerchief and produces a live rabbit or bird, or who throws a handful of coins into the crowd is regarded as more than mortal. The old fashioned humorist and the palmist, too, always entertain, but nothing perhaps brings wilder cheers than the animal man, who, appearing in the skins of various domestic and wild animals, imitates their cries and antics. The shadowgraph is another never failing source of amusement. An entire play, the actors of which are the ten fingers and thumbs of a deft pair of hands, is a part of the programme for one home. A house will appear on the sheet, and beneath the window serenaders. A pail of water thrown from the window submerges the singers and a policeman appears upon the scene and takes them off. Cinderella and other fairy and nursery tales in brilliantly colored moving pictures are among the newest pleasure giving schemes.

Merry revel will be heard in many country houses which have been kept open until after the holidays, and to supply these, as well as city homes, with suitable entertainment will tax to their utmost the amusement bureaus.

While the children's entertainment will in most cases occupy the morning or afternoon of Christmas Day, that for the grownups will be given in the evening. For these vaudeville performances are most popular, and cost the most. These, of course, necessitate large rooms and a stage. Other and simpler modes of amusement are found in musical programmes for which soloists, quartets, minstrels, bands, orchestras, etc., can be procured. Comedians, story tellers, caricaturists and monologists help to make an enjoyable evening.

### *A REMARKABLE CLUB.*

A clubwoman tells a comic story of how her small nephew and his friends caught the organization fever and got up a club of their own. They were anxious to compare notes with her on the subject of their respective clubs, but, although her nephew asked her a great many questions, it was evident that the methods of the Junior Athletic Club were entirely original. Its business seemed to consist principally of electing and expelling members, the same member being taken in and put out again several times a week. Irregular attendants were brought in by the use of physical force, or expelled bodily by the same means, and a like penalty was brought to bear upon cases of unconstitutional conduct, usually followed, however, by a wholesale exercise of the pardoning power. This made it as difficult to record the membership as to count a flock of sheep.

"What did you do at your meeting?" the aunt inquired one day.

"We 'lected some officers."

"Why, you elected officers last week."

"Yes, but they didn't act good, so we thought we'd 'lect some new ones."

"Tom can't come much," went on the clubman, "so we made him a premonitory member."

"A what? Do you mean honorary?"

"Yes, I guess that's it. He has to pay dues, but he doesn't have to come unless he can." This implied merely that Tom was exempt from being seized by the neck and brought into the meetings without his own volition. "And, you see, he's got to be honorable!" added the small boy, severely.

"We've got most a dollar," he continued, "in the treasurer! Has your club got any more than that?"

"A little more," meekly replied the aunt, whose club is one of the largest in the country.

## SOME WAYS OF THE WORLD.

### HOSPITALITY IN A SOUTHERN HOME—FAME OF "AUNT DINAH."

On the shores of what are called rapids in many of our streams one often sees near the scurrying and hurrying waters that carry everything afloat swiftly onward, quiet, placid pools, where the water develops, by reason of its surrounding land, into quite a different character, mirroring in its smooth surface the gnats and flies that hover about it, and affording a quiet haven for the fat trout that glide lazily about under the shadow of the vegetation on the banks. So, in places "far from the madding crowd" there are, even in this eager, busy country of ours, where every one is striving and pushing in the race for success, quiet communities, where oldtime customs still prevail and where the inhabitants are quite content with the simple pleasures and occupations of their forbears. Particularly is this the case in the rural districts of the South, where in their impoverished old manor houses, and surrounded by their broad acres, the descendants of the heroes of the Lost Cause still keep up the semblance of their former existence, indifferent to the rush and turmoil of the outside world. And although their crops are gathered in by "hired niggers" very different from the faithful serfs of yore, their stud of horses reduced to a few ungroomed nags, and money is more than a scarce commodity, they still dispense their hospitality with the same generous spirit, and are unmistakably what they pride themselves on being—worthy representatives of the gentlemen of the olden school both in manners and appearance.

"It seemed very strange," remarked a Wall Street man recently, who had just returned from a business trip to the interior of Mississippi, "to go straight from the routine of a broker's life at the Stock Exchange in New-York into a community of Southern gentlemen farmers, descendants of the old planters, and I kept longing for the pen of a modern realistic author to introduce some of the interesting characters I met with into the great American novel. They ought to be perpetuated before the great business boom, which is beginning to pervade the South and which must ere long inevitably destroy these old fashioned characteristics, becomes universal. It seems a great pity that the selfishness and greed of business competition must sooner or later destroy such types, for certainly they are fine old fellows! I went there a complete stranger, stayed a week, and now feel that there are half a dozen houses in the neighborhood, where at any time I would be a welcome guest. Immediately on our arrival at M— our party was invited to luncheon; or, rather, to take early dinner with Colonel X. Arriving at the house we were ushered into a spacious hall, through which a hearty voice sounded from behind a closed door, "Step right in, gentlemen; I will be with you in a minute, and, in the mean while, you'll find everything you want near the dining room door," meaning thereby a table liberally spread with liquors and appetizers of various description, from which the assembled guests helped themselves without ceremony, and where our host joined us a few seconds later, completing his toilet as he came. As for the luncheon, I never saw such bounty or such delicious cooking. Her master proposed we should make a visit to Aunt Dinah, in the kitchen, who, he told us, adored compliments, and was a character worth seeing, as she was the finest cook in the neighborhood and was sent for from far and near to superintend the various functions. We all agreed that such a luncheon deserved our thanks, and adjourned in a body to the kitchen, where Aunt Dinah received us with the greatest dignity and affability, and showed us the wonders of her storeroom.

"One of the men I met there—a splendidly preserved specimen of vigorous old age—promised me some fine quail shooting the next day, and drove me in a shabby old buggy with a beautiful Morgan mare to a designated point, where a couple of horses were waiting for us, each ridden by a small colored boy, with an older man to take our trap. 'It's easier riding than walking,' explained General B—, 'and we get down when we want to shoot. Coffee and Sambo will go with us to take care of the nags,' and to my surprise the two little imps hopped nimbly up behind us, holding on to our coats to keep themselves from falling off. The horses were steady old beasts, accustomed to the work, and certainly it was an easy way of getting a day's sport. A splendid brace of pointers helped us to a bag of fifty quail, so that on the whole I was well content with the Southern fashion of shooting. So it went on. Every day was marked by some hospitable kindness, and I came away wishing my week could have been lengthened into a month."

### AN UNCANNY EXPERIENCE.

As every one knows, the northern coast of Long Island Sound is broken up by a series of small peninsulas and islands which have been utilized for building sites for country houses. These points of land formed by the deep indentations of the sea are very near each other, so that houses that are miles distant by land are often directly opposite, with only a short stretch of water between. In summer, of course, and by boat, these short transits are much used, and even occasionally in winter the salt water freezes hard enough for the trip to be made on the ice. It was on one of these occasions, after a gay little dinner at the opposite house, that Mr. and Mrs. B— announced their intention of returning home on their skates. Their host remonstrated. "There is a southerly wind blowing," he said, "and some fishermen told me today the ice wouldn't last long; and you know how rotten salt water ice is when it begins to go. You had much better let me lend you a trap, as you told your man not to come back, and return home by land." But Mrs. B— insisted. "We skated this afternoon all over the bay," she persisted, "and it was perfectly strong. I have set my heart on skating home by moonlight," so, pinning up her skirts and covering her dinner gown with a long coat, they started. Heavy clouds obscured the moon from the start, and they had gone only a short way when a fine rain began to fall. "Let us go back," proposed Mr. B—, "and take the trap they said they would lend us." But his wife would not hear of it. She bitterly repented of her obstinacy, however, when they reached the middle of the bay and heard through the gloom sharp reports like pistol shots.

"It is the ice breaking up," shouted her husband. "Skate for your life!"

How they got over the remaining distance, she said afterward, was a miracle. Crack after crack opened before them, water rushed up about their ankles, as their weight sunk the great pieces down for a second. Only their fleetness saved them and the fact that the tide was coming in, jamming up the ice on the shore instead of leaving an impassable distance of water along the edge.

"It seemed like a horrible nightmare, lasting through an endless night," she said, in recounting her experience later, "and I can feel it all whenever I think of it. The wild night, with the horrible, soft southerly wind blowing in from the sea, the black stretch of land that seemed so far away, the strange, uncanny twilight that comes when the full moon is covered with clouds, and the cracking and shaking ice beneath our skates. We knew that a single stumble would have ended matters for both of us, and that the icy water would rush up and engulf us if we rested a second on the rotten salt ice. It was literally a race with death, and when we finally reached the welcome shore we threw ourselves down on the frozen ground, too exhausted even to speak or to take off our skates. My husband's shouts brought the servants to our aid, and we were soon in Jack's cosey 'den,' comforted with hot drinks and a blazing fire. But what an experience!"

### ONE VIEW OF AN AUTOMOBILE.

It is amusing to see the disgust evinced by smart coachmen for the automobile and the begoggled man that manages it. "Wot I allers say is that a regler gen'l'm'n sticks to the hoss," a red faced portly English coachman was heard to say to an audience of admiring grooms. "And it's a relief to my feelin's, that Mr. E— won't have one of them new fangled things about. Long as I've been with the family, and it's a nice place, there's no denying, with no interference and everything of the best, I'd leave quicker than wink if a steam engine was put in my stable and I had one of them fellers hangin' about. Why not learn to manage one myself? Why, James Smith, you don't know what your talkin' about! It's beneath me! It's horses I drives, not nothin'! I'd feel like a fool a-sittin' up on the box with nothin' before me. Just like little Johnny there playing gee horse in an unhitched wagon! No, sir! a hoss's good enough for me, and I hope that any gen'l'm'n that is a gen'l'm'n thinks the same. You say that lots of young swells skoot about the country in them? So they do, I don't deny it, but that don't prove that they are gen'l'm'n, does it? Quite the contrairy, says I, a frightenin' horses and killin' folks promiscuous, I'd have young Mr. X. and Y. and Z. all up in the perlice court if I had my say. It aint right, and I'm not the man to say it is if it aint!"

### *CHRISTMAS CAKES.*

In German households Christmas cake making is a part of the festive ceremonials, and the good housewives would as quickly think of turning Santa Claus from their doors as of turning over their holiday baking to a hireling. Among the good things that they make at this season are Berliner Pfannkuchen—in plain English, raised doughnuts with jelly filling. The time occupied in their making is fully recompensed by the results.

Put into a bowl four cupfuls of sifted flour, a quarter teaspoonful of salt and one tablespoonful of sugar. Make a hollow in the centre of the mixture and pour into it one yeast cake that has been dissolved in half a cupful of tepid milk. Melt one-fourth cupful of solid butter. Add it to one cupful of warm milk and turn into the bowl. If the milk and butter are hot they will kill the yeast. Add the yolks of eight eggs and mix the whole into a soft dough. Cover the bowl with a cloth and set in a warm place until the dough has raised to double its original height. Then take half the dough, put it on a floured moulding board that is not cold, and roll it into a sheet about a quarter of an inch thick; cut it into rounds with a cake cutter. Brush these with beaten egg and place in the centre of half the number a teaspoonful of marmalade or of fruit jelly. Cover these with the remaining half of the rounds, press the edges together and cut out again with a cutter which is a little smaller than the first one. Put them on a floured napkin in a warm place and cover with a napkin. They should rise to double their height in half an hour. Meanwhile repeat the process with the other part of the dough. Fry in deep hot fat, the same as crullers, keeping them turning constantly while they are in the kettle. When done, remove to blotting paper and roll in powdered sugar. The "Berliners" are considered best while hot, but many people serve them for breakfast with coffee.

Among the favorite small cakes are peppernuts. Cream together one-half pound of lard, one cupful of solid butter and two cupfuls of brown sugar. Add to this three eggs, beating them in one at a time and stirring thoroughly after each is added. To this add one grated nutmeg, two teaspoonfuls of cinnamon, one teaspoonful of ground cloves, two teaspoonfuls of ground aniseseed, two ounces of whole coriander seeds, one-half pound of chopped almonds and one-fourth pound of chopped citron. Then put in six cupfuls of molasses, with which has been mixed two teaspoonfuls of baking soda dissolved in a little boiling water, and flour with which four teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar has been sifted. Flour sufficient to make a stiff dough should be used. Work the dough with the hands until it is perfectly smooth and the ingredients are thoroughly mixed. Shape it into long rolls about an inch in diameter, and cut these into slices one-fourth of an inch thick. Bake in a quick oven until a light brown, and when cold turn into a cake box, where they will keep an indefinite time.

For almond cookies, blanch one-half pound of sweet almonds and five bitter almonds, and mortar them to a paste with the white of an egg. Cream together one cupful of sugar and one tablespoonful of butter. Mix this with the grated rind of one lemon, a saltspoonful of salt, two cupfuls of flour, two eggs and the almond paste. Work the mixture into a stiff dough. Roll it into a thin sheet, and cut with fancy shaped cooky cutters. Bake on buttered tins in a medium hot oven.

Biscuit kippel are more delicate, and are delicious with ice creams and sherbets. Beat together to a cream one-half cupful of powdered sugar and the yolks of four eggs. Add one cupful of sifted flour and the stiffly beaten whites of four eggs. Drop by teaspoonfuls into paper lined tins, sprinkle them with sugar and finely chopped almonds, and bake in a slow oven.

In all the above rules, as in all the recipes given in the Household Department of The Tribune, a spoonful means a rounded spoonful—that is, not heaped, but rounded over in the same proportion as the spoon is concave.

A cupful of dry material should be heaped lightly (not shaken down), and then, with a knife, levelled across the top, making an even cupful.

When butter is to be melted it is always so stated.

### *FAVORS AT A CHRISTMAS DANCE.*

Lady Curzon, in her Christmas festivities of last year, invented some new figures in a cotillon that may serve as hints to American hostesses. The cotillon was a combination of business and pleasure, as Lady Curzon wished to add to her fund for the relief of the famine sufferers, but the money part of it could be dropped, unless the American hostess also wished to serve a pet charity.

In the centre of the ballroom hung a huge bunch of mistletoe, and a solid money forfeit had to be paid by any couple who were so unlucky as to be forced by other couples under the fatal bough. One couple was appointed by the leader to dance alone, then he called up ten couples to waltz about and try to force the first couple to pass under the chandelier. After this he called up ten more couples to defend the first couple from the strategy of the aggressive ten. A pretty game of waltz football ensued, under the rules that everybody must keep dancing all the time, and that when the first ten, after eight minutes, failed to force the pursued couple under the mistletoe, it was their duty to collect the sum of the whole forfeit among themselves and put the amount, in actual money or promises to pay, in the poorbox at the door.

For the second figure favors were for sale—that is to say, the couples, when passing up to the favor table, were allowed to choose from among the trifles displayed, but on the back of every gimcrack a number was pasted from a penny to the amount of a pound, and that sum the person selecting was obliged to put in the poorbox. A tremendous amount of guessing and flutter went on at the favor table, and the most elegant favors sometimes demanded only a penny, while the unlucky big number would be found attached to a silly bow of ribbon.

The third and most brilliant figure was an auction sale of charming girls hidden wholly inside of huge Christmas stockings. Ten young women would be called up and carried into an adjoining room. They were persuaded to step into enormous stockings made of different goods—one a silk stocking, another a brilliant golf hose, another a plain stout yarn affair, a fourth was an old style white stocking with a pink top, a fifth was a baby's sock, a sixth showed wonderful clocks, a seventh was a clown's stocking, an eighth was an open work bas de sole, the ninth was a blue stocking, and the tenth was an old stocking, patched and worn.

Every man at the ball was allowed freely to comment on the appearance and possible usefulness of the ten Brobdingnagian hose, while the auctioneer swung his hammer and highly recommended the contents of these strange Christmas stockings. Cheerful giggles and pleased comments or indignant protests issued from the tops of the stockings as the crowd criticised, laughed, peered or guessed at the identity of the persons inside, and finally, when the bidding was over, the many colored bags were opened. Tremendous surprise ensued, and the men who had bid highest waltzed off with their purchases, who were pleased or reproachful, in accordance with the good prices they had brought.

### *BIRD DAY AT THE KOSMOS.*

The Kosmos Club, of Brooklyn, held its December meeting at the home of Mrs. E. R. Betts, No. 1,234 Pacific-st., Tuesday afternoon. Miss Alice Morse, chairman of the day, introduced the subject of Audubon with a paper upon "Heroes of Science in Perspective." Mrs. H. B. Davenport then gave a biographical sketch of John James Audubon. Mrs. R. Huntington Woodman's bird songs were chosen with special fitness to the subject. Mrs. Charles P. Weekes treated "Our Songster Neighbors," as seen in Prospect and Forest parks. "The Aims and Achievements of the Audubon Society," presented by Mrs. Edward Adams, with two songs by Mrs. Woodman, completed the programme.

### *THE CONNELLY HAT.*

J. H. Connelly, of No. 1,155 Broadway, originator of turbans and hats for tailored garments, is known as favorably now for his high class creations as he was thirty years ago.

### *NOVEL DIVERSIONS.*

Something of a novelty is the advertisement tea, now popular in London. The reference to the ware advertised must be as remote as possible, and must be attached in the form of a poster to the back of the inventor. Blank cards with pencils fastened to them, are given to each guest, who writes on them what she considers to be the articles advertised by the different posters. When every one has been inspected and each has inspected the others, the hostess reads the names of the posters, and the person who has made the greatest number of correct guesses receives a prize. Sometimes there are second and third prizes, and a booby prize in addition. It is said that the advertisement tea was invented in Australia.

### *YOUTHFULNESS OF FRENCH MATRONS.*

It is said that the secret of the youthful appearance of so many of the French matrons is contained in a mysterious sachet which is infused in a pint or two of tepid water, in which the face is bathed. Crowsfeet and wrinkles are cured by bandelettes and applications which are prepared by Dr. Dys, of Paris, and are to be obtained in this city from Mme. V. Darsy, No. 129 East Twenty-sixth-st.

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I have a magnificent assortment of ruby, mottled and pure amber and tortoise shell. Some plain, others exquisitely carved, some are mounted with Parisian diamonds. Solid gold and sterling silver, satins, velvets, laces, flowers, gauzes and feather effects, etc.

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The Marie Antoinette as I make it, is the most fashionable of coiffures and indispensable to ladies whose hair has become prematurely gray or thin.
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