

# OF INTEREST to WOMEN

## Frills Versus Learning

### Movement to Eliminate Feminine Frivolities from Commencement Ceremonies

To let an abuse take its course seems to be, sometimes, the best way to get rid of it. In time it becomes so intolerable that reaction becomes inevitable. It has been thus with the graduation gown and the attendant expenses, to those who have the misfortune to be of the female sex, of getting an official stamp placed upon one's learning. For years the abuse of graduation expenses has cried to heaven for a remedy, but, though educators and all rational persons deplored it, few serious attempts at reform were made and those few were abortive for the most part. This year—perhaps because of the increased cost of living—the burden seems to have reached the point all of a sudden where it can no longer be borne, and from all over the country during the last week have come tidings of revolt, sometimes on the part of school authorities, but more often among the students themselves.

In the women's colleges, to which the public has come to look for superior wisdom, the movement is under way. In Radcliffe, the sister of Harvard, and in that plain living and thinking ought to go together began to express itself early in the year, when the seniors took a stand against puffs, ruffs, rolls, braids and false hair of all kinds. Now a still more radical reform has been decreed. Commencement gowns at Radcliffe have heretofore been the cause of much heart-aching and jealousy, but this year there will be no room for rivalry. A committee appointed for the purpose has drawn up rules of Puritan severity. The hair is to be dressed without ornament, the skirts are to be clear of the ground by a good distance, jewelry is to be absent, and even jeweled hatpins will not be allowed. The only consolation for those who love frivolities will be in its color, white. But there will be no short sleeves or Dutch necks, and not even a row of buttons or a bit of embroidery will be permitted on the skirt.

"Of course," as one senior said, "there is no possible way of making the girls obey the rules. Any girl could come out in the most elaborate gown, and nothing could be done about it. But I wouldn't want to be the one to go against the rules. Girls can make one another extremely uncomfortable without seeming to do anything."

At Vassar it has been felt for some time that commencement expenses were too heavy. The graduating class has not attempted to legislate against elaborate commencement dresses, but it has been decided that class-day gowns shall be of "clear white muslin or linen" not silk or satin, and that they shall have no trains. The idea of having class day flowers all alike and of some simple variety like Marguerites failed of adoption.

Wellesley College has been so much taken up this season with the reorganization of its societies and the raising of money for a students' building that its sentiment against commencement expenses, though smoldering among the undergraduates, is not likely to take definite shape this year. So strong is the feeling in favor of simplicity, however, that many individual members of the graduating class will act with the courage of their convictions and wear exceedingly simple gowns for commencement ceremonies. Plain white shirtwaists, with linen collars, and untrimmed skirts, preferably of linen, which clear the ground by two or three inches, will be worn on commencement Sunday, when all the class appear in white, without the cap and gown, and also on commencement day itself, when the black academic gown has in recent years only partly covered the most elaborate of lingerie gowns. For the dressy hostess party, to be held on the day of the Saturday (June 18) preceding commencement day, handsome white

gowns, some of which have already been a long time ordered, will be worn. "Yet even on this dressiest day of all," writes a senior, "there will be a note of simplicity new to the gowns, less lavish flowers and spreads. Wellesley is in earnest about reform. Already, in the last year, student expenditure has been voluntarily reduced. Instead of sending floral offerings to other student favorites for barn swallow entertainments, inter-class receptions and similar functions, we have given the money to the students' building fund. We have bought even our shirtwaists seriously, with the object not only of supplying ourselves with needed garments, but of helping the striking shirtwaist makers." The summary regulations which their sister colleges have been making came as a surprise to the undergraduates of Radcliffe, on Morningside Heights the traditionally correct costume for commencement is a white linen shirtwaist and skirt under the academic gown, but once in a while, of course, some feminine soul, craving for the fluff and frills of her sex, adds a touch that is not considered either scholastic or dignified. At the commencement service one year several girls ventured to appear in blouses with Dutch necks or with broad lace collars spread out over their black gowns. The next day they received a notice from the committee on public ceremonies requesting them to put aside all laces and feminine touches. There was a murmur of protest, but the collars and a fluffy maline bow disappeared. This year the seniors, profiting by the experience of their predecessors, ordained standing collars or plain linen ones before authorities had a chance to lay down the law.

Most of the students in the colleges where the gown is worn are of the opinion that it helps to solve the problem of the graduation frock. "Every year, however, arises the question of cap and gown versus 'fussy clothes' at the faculty reception, and every year, after long discussion and a secret conclave with some feminine member of the professional staff, there is general rejoicing when the verdict 'caps and gowns' is handed down."

In public schools and various other institutions of learning the expense of graduation has been as serious a problem as in the colleges and has led to the same result, namely, a widespread revolt against these conditions. Public schools in and around Boston are all seething with the question, and Spartan simplicity is threatened at the June graduations. In Washington the Board of Education has come out for plain clothes, and although some of the misses are protesting the rule applies to have met with favor among well-to-do parents, and in some of the schools the pupils have of their own volition voted not to have flowers.

Public School 6 of this city has been unaffected by the wave of reform, for the reason that no reform was required there. No gloves, no flowers and no carriages have been permitted at commencement since Miss Katherine D. Blake became principal of the girls' department. "To allow an unlimited display of expensive gowns and costly floral tributes at commencement," Miss Blake said to a Tribune reporter, "is, aside from the bad taste of it, provocative of untold mental suffering to girls who are not in a position to have all these things. My determination to exclude them whenever I was in a position to do so dates back to my own graduation, when all but one poor girl was showered with flowers. She was so heart-broken over it that I never forgot the impression it made upon me. When I graduated as a teacher a similar experience convinced me in my determination to put the ban on such things. I have most heartily approved of the Radcliffe rules, and I hope that other colleges will follow."

## Some Ways of the World

"If you want oddtime doors and windows, mantels or stair-rails for your new house go to the house-wrecker," advises a well-known architect, who is fond of incorporating such bits into his own work, and often takes motor trips through the country to find them. On such exploration tours, too, he is able to pick up quaint and lovely pieces of furniture, for many a tumble-down shanty on some lonely road, remote from the route of the professional buyer, conceals such treasures. One does not have to journey far from New York to find front doors of great beauty, to be had out of the Bay, is a land of promise, and so is Perth Amboy, which may be reached from the Island's end by ferry. In early Colonial days fine houses, which are still standing, though sadly neglected, were built in both places. Burlington and Elizabeth and all the older Jersey towns also afford delightful suggestions for the "new house," when they fail to contribute anything material.

Women have been so long reproached for their emotionalism and unreason that it is comforting to learn on the authority of an auctioneer, that auctions they are much more sane than men. "Women know," says the auctioneer, "just what they want and how much they can afford to pay for it, and are not carried away by the spirit of recklessness and obstinacy that develops in a man when opposed by a determined bidder. A man thoroughly aroused and excited will often bid against himself, where a woman would inquire whose bid was being called. Nor will women rear the bidding save by small amounts, never plunging into a sale of \$5 or \$10, which is man's way of getting ahead of the other fellow. Women go to auctions to become so expert in bargain getting that man can only blush for his failures when competing, for the sterner sex do not appreciate the possibilities of an article, and as a rule only care to buy perfect pieces."

A word to those who may be planning for the first time to go to some famous Paris house for their gowns. The assistant must be tipped. Otherwise one might sit unnoticed for a long time, with every one seemingly too busy to heed. An assistant must be seized as she passes and embraced, after which miracles will occur. A very good tip will even, at the end, after one or two frocks have been purchased, bring forth from some remote store a "bargain," and it will be one in a very way.

The craze for curies leads to some strange results. A woman who has lately been exploring Italy and Spain in search, among other things, of rare objects of art, brought back such a quantity of treasures that she arranged a series of dinners to display them. At the first of these entertainments some beautiful silver "vases" of unusual design and in shape quite unlike either a vase or a cup were used for flowers, with ribbon streamers and smilax festoons. The effect was most charming and inspired a proper degree of envy and admiration in the breasts of all the guests but one, and he felt only astonishment and horror. For the "vases" were chalices and had been stolen from one of the oldest cathedrals in Spain. Belonging to an illustrious Italian family, this guest held by inheritance the position of chamberlain to the Pope, so his sentiments at seeing a consecrated vessel misused, and for a social event at that, found vent in a lecture to the hostess, who, being an old friend, took it in good part. She has kept the chalices since in a niche where an exquisite painting of a Madonna hangs, although her Italian friend earnestly pleaded that they should be returned to the church from which they were taken.

## WOMEN FARMERS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY.



## A TIME TO PLAY

### Message of Play Congress to Nation of Toilers.

The art of story telling was highly esteemed in the remote period when the tales of "The Thousand-and-One Nights" saved hundreds of innocent lives by so entrancing a cruel despot as to make him forget his wrath, and it was still in good repute when Sir Philip Sidney wrote in his "Defence of Poesie": "He cometh unto you with a tale which holdeth children from play." In a utilitarian age this art has fallen into neglect, but some inspired persons who have discovered that humanity needs tales as of yore are trying to revive it. The subject is to get a lot of attention at the congress of the Playground Association of America, to be held June 7 to 11 in Rochester, and those who attend will have an opportunity to hear Seumas MacManus, of Donegal, Ireland, tell some of the tales with which he is wont to delight the hearts of the little folk.

The object of the members of the Playground Association in encouraging story telling is not, however, to hold the children from play. They think that children really can't have too much play—at least, they are in no danger of getting it—and that they need tales and play.

Nor will the attention of the congress be confined to children. Grown people are sadly in need of play, too, the association thinks, and so social centers will come in for much discussion. This means a wider use of school buildings, and their use by adults as well as by children. Most of the schoolhouses are being used for only a few hours a day, five days in the week, ten months of the year; they stand idle three fourths of the year. But in some cases the buildings have been put to use in the interest of the neighborhood as clubhouses, and Elmer Ellsworth Brown, United States Commissioner of Education, is to speak of the results of this attempt and what may be done in the future.

Mrs. Rose Pastor Stokes is to tell how to make factory work less monotonous for the worker. It is a problem, she says, that many employers are considering. The interest in this question, it is asserted, is a

MRS. HERBERT L. SATTERLEE. (Photographs by Underwood & Underwood, New York.)

## Getting Back to the Soil

### Women Thin Carrots Mathematically and Learn Other Gardening Stunts.

Next Tuesday is the eventful day when Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan, and eighty or ninety other farmers will gather the crops they have been raising up at the New York University.

Mrs. Satterlee expects to get a yield of at least four or five spring onions, a mess of hot greens, a bunch of lettuce and enough radishes for breakfast. But the yield she and the other farmers count on most is the knowledge they are gathering under the tuition of Henry Griscom Parsons, secretary of the International Children's School Farm League, who directs the department of children's gardens in the summer school at the university.

The harvesting day next Tuesday will be the last of four special gardening lessons given this year in advance of the regular session of the summer school. On May 3 the class spaded and planted the garden, which is on a sunny slope to the southeast of the Hall of Fame. Simultaneously Mr. Parsons planted in their minds numerous sprigs of

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## HAND PAINTED HATS

### They Come High, but a Clever Girl Can Make One.

Lucky these days is the woman who has skill in painting flowers. With a few tubes of color, an untrimmed hat of fine straw and a little time she can produce a confection for her head such as the less clever woman is forced to pay \$50, \$75 or \$100 to secure.

Hand painted hats are one of the fads of the season, a recent fad, for the first of them were only lately imported. Those that are well done are really exquisite, and they have the advantage of requiring little trimming, for the painted flowers are enough.

The first step for the woman who wants to crown her locks with one of these hand-painted hats, and doesn't care to pay out a handful of dollars, is to buy an untrimmed hat of some becoming shape. It should be wide brimmed, for toques and turbans do not lend themselves to this style of decoration. Also it should be of some fine straw, Leghorn or Panama or something of that sort. Rough straw is difficult to paint, and would not show off the design so well. The color of the straw should be white or cream, since these can most easily be transformed to other colors.

The next thing is to make a pattern of the brim of the hat and the top of the crown in stiff light brown paper, these being the parts that are painted. The floral design should be drawn on the pattern, and then cut out with a pair of sharp scissors, that it may be stencilled on the hat. The prettiest designs are vines bearing bunches of blossoms. Wistaria, for instance, is very effective. Small bunches of flowers, roses or violets or orchids, dotted at intervals over the hat, are pretty, too. On one hat just imported from France were painted bunches composed of two or three pink roses, a few leaves and some bright blue forget-me-nots. The bunches, by the way, should not be over three inches long.

The outlining color used in stencilling the design on the hat should be one that will sink in with the distinctive hue of the hat, and it must be put on with a steady hand, for a wavering outline spoils the effect. The body color used, the body color should be laid on with a flat brush, as rapidly as possible. The hat is meant to appear a monotonous background for the floral decoration, and the color of the background must be one that will harmonize with the flowers. The flowers may have scarce colors and may be very elaborate, but they must be most effective when simple in design and broadly done, with as few colors as possible.

The paints known as tapestry dyes are best for this work; they are inexpensive and they come ready prepared in liquid form, so that they sink readily into the straw, changing its color completely. A great deal of care must be taken to apply the body color evenly. A blotched effect makes a very unbecoming hat. It is well to practise on some old hat or piece of straw before undertaking the new hat.

The painting done, the rest is very simple. Much trimming would only detract from the real decoration. A charming model seen at a wedding lately had a background of robin's egg blue, with little bunches of pink and yellow roses at intervals on the brim, just as if they had fallen there. A wide strand of blue maline was laid loosely about the crown, held in place by small flat bows of velvet ribbon, yellow, to match the soft tone of the painted yellow rose petals.

## SINGLE TAX PARTY REVIVES

### Organizes for Political Activity and to Spread Its Propaganda.

Another political party was born yesterday—the American Single Tax party. It uttered its first cry in the rooms of the Woman's Trade Union League, No. 43 East 22d street.

Thirty-three single taxers, Joseph Dana Miller, Miss Maud Malone, the suffragist, and others, joined in sending out the call for yesterday's convention, the first political convention held by the single taxers since 1886.

"We made up our minds that the time had come to act," Mr. Miller said. "We've been sending pamphlets and holding open air meetings where people listened to the arguments, and went away and forgot all about them, but without a permanent party organization we have had no standing."

"One thing that started us just now was the news of the fight in England for taxation of land values. But there are numbers of reasons why the time is ripe just now for the formation of a single tax party. The social unrest that is spreading everywhere, the cost of living agitation, the gradual marshalling of the exploiters and the exploited into two hostile camps and the corruption of the Democratic and Republican parties, with which we have worked more or less, all these call for a party to demand the true economic reform, the land for the people."

Woman suffrage is one of the tenets of the single taxers, and Miss Malone, Miss Amy Mall Hicks and other women were among the speakers yesterday. The convention elected George Wallace, formerly a Republican, chairman, as permanent chairman.

## "HE COMETH UNTO YOU WITH A TALE WHICH HOLDETH CHILDREN FROM PLAY."



SEUMAS MACMANUS TELLING STORIES TO THE CHILDREN OF THE DAISY FIELDS HOME AND HOSPITAL, IN ENGLEWOOD, N. J.

business interest as well as a humanitarian one, for contented employes will be less likely to keep moving from one place to another, and greater intelligence will mean a larger output. Mrs. Stokes speaks from her own experience.

One of the exhibits at the congress will show the social and educational value of moving pictures. Motion pictures, according to John Coffey, of the national board of censorship of motion pictures, now play to an audience of approximately four millions daily in this country, and naturally are exerting an influence on the immigrant class, on children and on rival forms of recreation.

"This board of censorship inspects and approves or rejects 90 per cent of the motion pictures now shown in the entire country. It is a humanitarian movement, having been organized by the People's Institute, in co-operation with various civic and educational bodies in New York City."

The problem of playground supervision will be discussed at considerable length, for this is a subject about which there is some divergence of opinion. Football for blind children, a new idea which has been developed by Charles F. Campbell, of Boston, will be presented by this authority, and illustrated by motion pictures showing blind children playing the game. Ernest Thompson Seton will bring to the fore the message of the Indian and the outdoor life, and Frederic Thompson, of New York, will tell "why wholesome shows pay."

People with big estates in the country, dening may have to be carried on somewhere in the outskirts, where land is not so valuable, the lectures can be given in a central spot, as is done in the present course of four lessons, the indoor ones being given at the general office of the university, in Washington Square East, while for the outdoor ones the pupils have to go to University Heights.

But a very good farm, on which a number of people can learn the principles of gardening, may be made out of a small plot of ground. This is shown in the garden started by the League for Tubercular Children at Bellevue Hospital, and again in the farm at Public School 177—a plot fifty feet square, but big enough to give a whole school a pretty good whack at gardening, and big enough to yield pleasure to the neighbors, too.

## A UNION LABEL SHOP.

The Women's Trade Union League in its annual report just issued announces that a retail shop which will handle only articles of women's wear bearing the union label will open shortly in New York. The growth of interest in trade organizations among women justifies this step, the report says. Women students in colleges are anxious to have garments bearing the label, it is stated. Those of the University of Wisconsin have taken a label pledge, and some influential orders of club women have recommended the patronage of the label to their members.

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