NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON

Capital Is Taking on the Attributes of a Metropolis

WASHINGTON.—"I used to think that Washington was the quietest big city in the world," sighed a "good old times" person, "and I loved it on that acount. But now—!" The sigh and the shake of the head were eloquent.

If memory serves, it was Mrs. Adams, wife of the president, who complained of Washington as a wilderness. The streets, she said, were composed of mud that covered the hubs of the wheels of her carriage. Probably, with such a paving there was practically no noise of traffic—likewise no traffic.

"The city protects its citizens from unnecessary noises," said Maj. Sylvester, "but as Washington each year takes on more and more the attributes of a metropolis the number of necessary noises increases."

Just then a man blustered into the outer office and demanded a copy of the police regulations.

"I want," he said, "to find out what we've got to submit to and what we haven't. A crowd of boys congregates in the alley back of our house. They yell and how! there and play ball, and they cut up the brooms that they find in the alley entrances and use them for bats."

"What will you do about that?" the correspondent asked Maj. Sylvester.

"It must go through the courts."

"But the policeman on that beat—shouldn't he have done something?"

"We'll investigate that. There are regulations forbidding ball playing and disorderly conduct on the city thoroughfares."

Meanwhile the irate gentleman had followed a quiet-spoken individual who had asked him to "come with me and make a statement."

Then there is the tragic story of the apartment house resident—the cliff dweller of civilization. One of these, wooing a greatly desired morning nap, is awakened in the young hours of the morning by the milkman. The milkman has been awake these many hours, and has absorbed all that exhilaration which, so we are told, may be extracted from the dawn. Having absorbed said exhilaration, the milkman proceeds to exude it again for the benefit of all whom it may concern—whether the beneficiaries desire it or not.

Then comes the ice man, clatter, clatter, into the alley. Certain horses must be addressed in loud and mandatory tones—else they will not stand just right. A swarm of boys must deliver ice in all directions, and call across intervening space for instructions. But, at last, they, too, go.

Fewer Strong Men Found Among Recruits of Today

RECRUITS in the army are deteriorating in physical standards since the days of the Civil war, according to Captain Harold W. Jones and other officers of the army medical corps. During a recent investigation measurements of 500 recruits were examined, and it was found that the percentage of strong men enlisted is by far the lowest at the present day, only 33 per cent., as against 57 per cent. in 1875.

The men considered weak at the present time are 43 per cent. as against 10 per cent. in 1875. Attention is called to the fact that the percentage of foreign-born recruits has fallen from more than 60 per cent. to about nine per cent. It is suggested that many of the recruits obtained years ago were hardy German and Irish emigrants of stocy build, which may account for the great difference in the percentage of strong men.

"We must take the figures cautiously," says that officer. "As I have said, I think there is no doubt that we are getting a different type of man in the service today from what we got years ago; he may be just as good and he may have more brains, but

he does not seem to have as much brawn.

"Whether the present-day recruit would last as well under the old conditions of hard frontier service with sanitary conditions far inferior to those of the present time is hard to say, but I think it doubtful if he would.

"The high percentage of strong men in 1876 to 1879 may be due to the fact that the recruiting, at least in this part of the country, was not very active then and the army could pick its men, accepting only the hardiest and best. Finally, I believe further investigation along the lines suggested in this paper in other parts of the country might tell us whether our standard is really deteriorating or not."

They Knew President Wilson as Boy "Tommy"

IN the throng of visitors at the executive offices the other day President Wilson found two friends of his boyhood days, the Misses Elizabeth M. and Ellen D. Bellamy of Wilmington, N. C. The two sisters, well advanced in age, were ushered into the outer offices just as the president, according to his usual custom, began shaking hands with the friends of congressmen.

"There he is now," said one of the sisters; "I knew I could tell him, but how old he has gotten. We used to call him Tommy. I am afraid I'll call him that yet."

"You mustn't do that," interrupted the other. "It's Mr. President now."

"You know the first time I ever saw him," said Miss Ellen, reminiscently, "he was riding a bicycle."

"It was the first time I ever saw a bicycle, too," rejoined her sister.

The two sisters told one of the secretaries how their brother, as family physician for the Wilsons, was summoned to attend the mother of the future president.

"Tommy came over," said Miss Ellen, "to get me to stay with his mother. He stayed around and was a very helpful boy. I said at that time Tommy would make a fine husband for somebody some day. How proud his father would be if he could see him now."

Just then the president came over, the two women introduced themselves, and President Wilson said he remembered them quite well. He expressed his regret that Mrs. Wilson and the members of his family were not home to greet them, and the two sisters went forth beaming with satisfaction.

She Proves to Husband Her Wifely Devotion

REPRESENTATIVE Clayton of Alabama dropped in on Postmaster-General Burleson the other day and found him sweltering over some unpronounceable postoffice addresses. He came to the rescue by telling of some of his own experiences.

"One of my good frinds and supporters in all my races for congress," Judge Clayton averred, "had the unique name of Doremus Erasmus Cadwalader Riddlesperger. One night," continued the judge, "I went to a country dance not far from my home and among the dancers was a Mr. Pinkney Commilion, who had for his fair partner Miss Mahaly Maholyback."

Mr. Burleson seemed to doubt the veracity of the Alabama member.

"That's not all," continued the judge. "A young colored woman, smiling and jolly-looking, came to our house one day bearing a fat little infant of the female sex. The proud mother on being asked the name of her offspring replied:

"'You know dat I loves ma husband. I sho' am awful fond of dat man, and so I called our baby a name to show how much my love is fo' its father. I named it Truly Thine Own.'"

BROWN FOR MILLINERY

COLOR HAS USURPED PLACE OF TAUPE AND SMOKE GRAYS.

Change Makes for Richer Coloring—Tan and Rembrandt Crowns Vie With Each Other for Popularity—Some Recent Models.

In millinery browns seem to have taken the place of taupe and smoke grays, so much in vogue last season, and in every department in which new materials in goods by the yard or for trimming are shown, brown tones are well to the fore.

Bronze panne trimmed with brown ostrich feathers and satin ribbon was used for a smart turban, shape with soft crown raised toward the back. The ostrich feathers encircling the crown terminating on the left in a high standing feather effect, finished with loops of brown satin ribbon.

Another smart model in dark brown velvet was trimmed with bottle green ostrich feather tips and velvet ribbon to match. The milliners are using Florentine red and likewise bottle green, peacock green and a smoky-blue gray.

A fetching draped toque of Florentine red silk velvet, recently imported, was trimmed with a red wing and algrette, held in place by large loop of mink.

Tam and Rembrandt crowns vie with the smart cap shapes in popularity, and these larger crowns are usually girdled with bands of ribbon, laid in soft folds and tied in excessively chic bows near the back of the hat. An oval toque of prune moire silk shows a Rembrandt crown of the silk encircled by two plaited bands of prune moire ribbon, a band of deep blue moire ribbon being placed between the prune bands with daring but artistic effect. The three ribbon bands are tied in a flat bow at one side near the back of the hat and the two prune loops stand erect.

Another Rembrandt model in black velvet had two chocolate brown ostrich plumes at one side, the plumes rising from a gilt buckle.

Buttons covered with the hat material are another noticeable feature, and it is interesting to learn what may be done with buttons in the way of hat ornamentation, some of the button-garnished models being very smart indeed. For example, a soft crowned blue velvet hat, shown among the cuts in the large drawing, had a slightly rolling brim with wired lace frill inside, and was trimmed at one side with a huge red velvet button from which rose an ostrich ornament in tassel effect.

MARY DEAN.

Those Girdle Ends.

Of course, girdles with long ends are being worn, and will continue to be worn throughout the coming season; but the obi bow is just a little newer. Now, to break the monotony, why not take the ends of one or two girdles, press them out and proceed to make a nice, fat, loose Japanese obi bow of them? It's as easy as the traditional "spill" off the old log. The obi may be worn front or back, and has simply two loops with no ends.

BEAUTY IN SHAPELY FINGERS

Though They Require Constant Care the Effect Is Worth All the Trouble Necessary.

The work of restoring the fingers to their normal state may be better accomplished if a girl is willing to feed the fingers two or even three times a day, althouh once a day, if treatment is faithfully adhered to, will make a decided improvement that can be easily noticed as she proceeds.

A very simple method is to hold the finger tips in warm oil for about ten minutes at a time and then rub them about vigorously as if washing the hands; press the oil in and about the cuticle, so that all the surrounding flesh will be thoroughly fed.

Should agnails appear after the nails start to grow out properly, clip off only what is absolutely necessary, as clipping too deep is likely to cause a thick growth which is not easily gotten rid of without first having sore fingers. After clipping wrap a bit of cotton about an orangewood stick, dip it in peroxide, then rub over the clipped cuticle; when dry press a little cold cream over the spot. If the cuticle is sore enough to be troublesome it may be touched lightly with colodion. Iodine is also very good, but, as it stains the skin, it is not used quite so frequently as the first mentioned lotions. However, as it speedily relieves the pain, if one is careful to put on only a drop or two it would not show very much, and wears away in a day or two, because the hands are washed frequently.

FASHIONS AND FADS.

Dark, rich colors are emphasized.

New tailored costumes are olive green.

There is a marked popularity of the hip tunic.

Among dainty footgear, beaded heels appear.

There are mantle coats with wide, full raglan backs.

Fur appears in vivid tones of yellow, blue, rose and purple.

Waistcoats are in a great variety of embroidered colored effects.

There is a tendency toward wide pocket effects around the hips.

Both suit and dress skirts show tunics and three-flounce effects.

The most extensively used furs are lynx, beaver, red fox and sable.

An interesting fashion detail is the high poke collar, both on dresses and coats.

In the Nursery.

There is a distinct knack in the method of lifting and holding the baby.

Both hands should be used, for instance, in lowering the baby from the lap to the bath. For the greatest comfort, one hand should support the baby's back, while his head rests upon the lower arm or wrist.

The legs and lower part of the child's body are lifted with the other hand.

Before putting the baby into the bath wash the child's face and head so that no soapy water can get into his eyes or mouth.

Not every mother has the art of making her lap comfortable. When dressing the baby it is best to sit in a low rocking chair without arms, with one foot upon a stool in order to deepen the hollow in which the child lies.

If a child's feet grow tired in warm weather they should be rubbed with salt and bathed in cold water. A hot bath and a daily massage is also beneficial.

Fruit Buttons.

The latest things in buttons are in the form of fruits, the small ones cherries and strawberries, the larger apples and plums. These are used for trimming country dresses in light crepe or voile.

IDEA WELL WORTH COPYING

Rugs of Colored Rope, Popular in France, Inexpensive and Peculiarly Pretty.

In Paris one lives out of doors so much that there are always new creations for the gardens and porches and the many terraces in the country where one finds the table set for a meal.

Among these new things is a large circular rug made in a simple design of colored rope.

The natural hempen color is used for the border and the circular center, and between are huge sailor knots of red or purple or blue rope. The effect is most attractive.

There is no reason why these rugs cannot be copied by women who like such things and know where to get them done. Rope is easily bought and easily dyed in the preferred colors, and there are places in most towns where sailorlike work is done.

Remember, the rug is open in its design. It resembles a coil of rope and loops such as one would see on the dack of a yacht. It may have been first used on someone's yacht and rapidly have become the fashion for country houses.

Old-Time Trimming.

Tatting is again coming into favor, and many a grandmother luxuriating in enforced idleness will welcome the opportunity to be of service once again in this old-fashioned art. Babies' layettes are much trimmed with it and it is quite as handsome and desirable as an edging for "mother's" gowns as the real Irish edge ever was.

FOR AN AUTUMN BRIDE.

An autumn bride who is going away on her wedding trip to Panama, has chosen this frock as serviceable and chic for general afternoon use. A dressy transparency is given the blouse in the gray and green plaid chiffon, just touched with the skirt material in the shoulder straps and sleeves. Soft corded mohair in gray forms the skirt, which is of the fashionable length to reveal the smartness of the buttoned boots, and which has a modestly simulated, button trimmed slash.

AROSE TO THE EMERGENCY

How Engineer Proved Worthy of His Position When the Occasion Came to Try Him.

The engineer of a Chicago suburban train showed the other day that a cool and experienced head is equal to almost any emergency. A side rod had broken, and with every revolution of the wheels, was demolishing the cab and the mechanism by which the engine is operated. He was able to shut off the power, but the airbrake control had been destroyed, and the train went dashing on. Having done all that mortal could do with the apparatus that was left intact, he left the cab, climbed over the coal in the tender and swung down on the platform of the first car. There, reaching for the air cord, he brought the train to a stop in a few hundred feet. If he had whistled for brakes the train crew might not have responded in as little time as it took him to do the thing himself.

Went Him One Better.

Attendant (in British Museum)—"This book, sir, was once owned by Cicero." American Tourist—"Pshaw! that's nothing. Why, in one of our American museums we have the lead pencil with which Noah used to check off the animals as they came out of the Ark."

New ork is to have several new bus lines on which women will act as conductors.

MRS. MANGES ESCAPES OPERATION

How She Was Saved From Surgeon's Knife by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Mogadore, Ohio.—"The first two years I was married I suffered so much from female troubles and bearing down pains that I could not stand on my feet long enough to do my work. The doctor said I would have to undergo an operation, but my husband wanted me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound first. I took three bottles and it made me well and strong and I avoided a dreadful operation. I now have two fine healthy children, and I cannot say too much about what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me."—Mrs. LEE MANGES, R. F. D. 10, Mogadore, Ohio.

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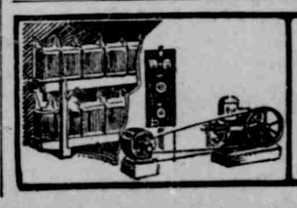

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