

# THE HOME, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS INTERESTS



A reception redingote gown of steel gray Louise silk, trimmed with stitched tabs of broadcloth in self color. A large gold buckle clasps the giraffe front. An embroidered white French mousseline front breaks from collar to belt in soft fulness.

## THE YOUNG GIRL'S DRESSY SHIRT WAISTS AND BLOUSES

Of All Fair Femininity the Very Young Girl Is the Most Particular as to All Her Dress Details.

Nobody in the whole wide world of fashion is so particular about what she wears as the very young girl. Details that her older sister would pass as of no moment in the general effect she worries about, feeling that all the world is looking to see if her glove or her shoe be cut on the newest lines.

The things she seems most particular of all about is her shirt waists and blouses, and she can't have enough of them.

Perhaps nobody else puts them on quite so well, either, for she pulls them in here and up there, and sees that her stock is adjusted in just the prettiest fashion and that her girldie or her belt is exactly joined, until she's as trig and trim a little individual as can be found in a month of Sundays.

Shirt waists, she believes, should be thoroughly tailored as to style and materials, so, whether she makes them herself (and dozens of young girls—girls still in school—make almost everything they wear) or has them made, she chooses materials that will press flat and take on the mannish lines that she loves to masquerade in.

Straps and tabs, tucks and plaits, buttons and pipings—these are the only trimmings she allows her shirt waists to boast, but she combines these trimmings in dozens of unusual ways.

A plain dark blue or brown or black she touches up with pipings of daintily bright plaids, a plaid she quiets, yet sets off, with strappings of a solid color.

### CALLING GOWNS.

The Long, Trailing Skirts Are Very Strikingly Effective.

Calling gowns for the first week in January are for the most part long. The longer the better, for there is no denying that there is a certain elegance about the long dress which is lacking in the short. And particularly is this true of the velvet gown, which loses two-thirds of its dignity if it be cut off at the soles of the boots.

Velvet skirts cut rather clinging with a long train are something of an innovation, and very striking they look after the past season of very full skirts. They are made so that they almost outline the figure, and one velvet dress was made so tight that you would wonder how the woman ever sat down in it. The back trailed away for nearly a yard upon the floor, making a long pointed train, very ceremonious and very old-fashioned to the eyes of the present day.

But for the most part the velvet gown is made very full with the fullness confined around the hips in tucks and in plaits, which are strapped with all sorts of trimmings. Bands of passementerie sometimes hold the tucks flat, and one of the new wrinkles shows a very elaborate embroidery scheme on top of the tucks all around the hips.

### MARRIAGE LICENSES.

- Oscar P. Anderson, 27, and Edith P. Smith, 21.
- Jean Riano y Gayangos, 23, and Alice F. Ward, 24.
- Maurice F. Flynn, 28, and Catherine A. Wright, 32.
- Harbor N. Adams, 21, and Addie F. Spelden, 19.
- Lawrence Dorsey, 43, Elliott City, Md., and Francis Hesler, 26, Elliott City, Md.
- Johnnie Beasley, 27, and Ole Schnault, 22, both of Caroline county, Va.
- John Biggar, 28, and Elizabeth D. Ridgley, 29.
- Charles J. Seize, 23, and Lucy P. McKenna, 22.
- Louis A. Green and Emily Kerstetter, 25.

## By Burning Highly Sweetened Odors Rooms Can Be Perfumed

Soak Lamp Wicks in a Scented Mixture and Flame Will Be Sweet and Often a Valuable Disinfectant.

One of the luxuries that American women are just beginning to turn their attention to is that of perfumes. Indeed, they are not altogether trained yet in the use of this, which, when properly employed, is so delightful, and when overdone is almost nauseating. A little perfume is an excellent thing; much of it is repellent.

It is not only her skin and garments that a dainty woman should have giving out delicate, sweet odor, but her rooms as well. To enter a place over which hangs a delicate perfume acts immediately upon the nervous system, soothing and delighting it. To have one's rooms so saturated is quite possible at a very small expense, though, if the pastilles, which are most commonly used, are bought the cost will be more. But a woman who has a little time and wishes to employ it to advantage can do nothing better than to make some of the burning perfumes that will make her room a joy to enter.

**Easily Made.**  
Fumigating pastilles are made of powdered charcoal, with aromatic substances, held together by some sort of mucilage. As a rule they are shaped in a small cone, and may be burned in a brazier, or in a tin can, or in a glass jar, or in a metal receptacle, or the prosaic end of a shovel will answer the same purpose. In making them all dry ingredients must be powdered, then add oils, if any are used, and lastly the mixture is made into a mass that can be shaped with whatever liquid the recipe demands. It should not be forgotten that these pastilles have certain disinfecting value that make them useful in small rooms or flats where ventilation is difficult.

An artistic way of burning an odor is through perfumed wicks, and is not difficult to prepare, though it takes a long time, as the mixture must stand a month before being used.  
Into one bottle put ten ounces of tincture of iris, three and one-half ounces of gum benzoin, and one-half ounce of half drams of myrrh.

Into another mix ten ounces of alcohol three and one-half drams of musk and thirty-five drops of rose essence. Let each stand a month, shaking at intervals. Then strain and add together.

Take a soft wick such as is used in alcohol lamps, and drop it into the mixture to stand several hours, and soak thoroughly. Then dry and twist it a trifle tighter.

**Perfumed Wick.**  
The wick is then to be put into anything you may have to burn it in. In France are to be found specially prepared lamps, but if one can do no better the wick can simply be dropped into anything, as a piece of cloth might be, and lighted. The smoke will be highly aromatic.

An incense burner is, of course, the most attractive to use it in.

A simpler way of getting a delightful odor is made of one ounce each of frankincense, cascarilla, benzoin, myrrh, cinnamon, and thyme. Make them into a fine powder and keep them closely covered to prevent the odor escaping. When desired to use heat a shovel or any metal plate and pour over a little of the powder.

Nicer perfumed sticks to burn can be made than can be bought. A preparation of one ounce of powdered benzoin, one-half ounce of cascarilla, one ounce of sandal wood (not sandal wood), one-half ounce of cinnamon, one-half ounce of niter, one-half ounce of cloves, three and a half ounces of charcoal and three-quarters of an ounce of oil of nutmeg.

All these should be powdered, then mixed with gum tragacanth. Roll into little sticks.

One of the simplest pastilles is composed of four ounces of oil of benzoin, four ounces of gum benzoin, one drachm each of oils of lavender, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, and rose, one ounce of potassium, and two pounds of powdered charcoal. Dissolve the niter in gum tragacanth and then mix the whole as already directed.

## THE POWER OF BEAUTY

Even in the Business World Its Influence Is Potent.

A woman whose stern visage spelled trouble stepped up to the complaint desk in a big store. Back of the desk was a timid miss—one of those Dresden doll girls who never seem to lose their baby ways—and at the sight of a wrathful shopper she seemed to shrink a bit, while into the wide blue eyes came what the poet would style the look of a startled fawn. The indignant customer held a trade about some mistake that had been made in connection with a purchase, but her anger disappeared when she saw how much the shop girl seemed to take the matter to heart. Finally, after calmly explaining the fault, she went away smiling. "It's a great scheme," remarked the observant manager, with the air of a man bestowing bouquets on himself. "You see, in every large business establishment there are bound to be mistakes occurring all the time. When customers come back to kick about errors they are usually in an unreasonable frame of mind. If there was a man back of the complaint desk, or a strong-minded woman, we'd have all kinds of trouble smoothing out the kinks, because the customers would keep their fighting mood on when they encountered somebody who looked able to take care of him or herself. But to go up against a pretty, timid girl disarms them, and in a minute they are cool and ready to talk over the situation peaceably. The men kickers simply couldn't raise a row with a handsome girl, and the women—well, their motherly instincts are touched and they become good-humored."

**What Is Worn.**  
First and foremost copper red orange-tinted brown, shaded mandarin. Burnt orange is the color which we all desire our hair to assume. La Vallere claims are becoming alike to slender and short necks. Valenciennes lace, certainly on blouses, takes the lead, and it is being introduced onto lounging gowns and tea gowns, as well as full dress high bodices. Velvet takes first place in luxurious gowns, and is second to no other material for the three-quarter coats, says the "Queen." The broader the bodice the more fashionable. Green seems best allied to the softest make of face cloths, and peach-colored chiffon nothing can rival.

### Bright Eyes in Age.

An elderly woman whose bright eyes excite the envy of some of her younger friends tells the secret of it. She says her hair to assume. La Vallere claims are becoming alike to slender and short necks. Valenciennes lace, certainly on blouses, takes the lead, and it is being introduced onto lounging gowns and tea gowns, as well as full dress high bodices. Velvet takes first place in luxurious gowns, and is second to no other material for the three-quarter coats, says the "Queen." The broader the bodice the more fashionable. Green seems best allied to the softest make of face cloths, and peach-colored chiffon nothing can rival.

### Water as a Nerve Cure.

"If nervous people would only drink more water they would not be so nervous," remarked a trained nurse the other day. "Nearly every physician will recommend a woman who is suffering from nervous prostration or nervous exhaustion to drink lots of water between meals, but many women who do not come under a doctor's care would feel better and look better if they would drink, say, a quart of water in the course of the day. Water seems to be a nerve food, like good butter. It has a distinctly soothing effect on the nervous system, and one can test for herself. I am not enough of a scientist to be able to tell you the reasons why it does this, but water sipped slowly and gradually has somewhat the same quieting effect as deep breathing."—New York Tribune.

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CHILD'S RIBBON HAT.

Ribbon hats for children are a new innovation in the millinery world and sure to meet with favor, as they are so durable and at the same time so pretty. This one has a rather high crown and wide brim, both made of innumerable rows of gathered, pale blue silk ribbon. Two rosettes of fine white lace and a white aigrette trim in front and pale blue gauze ribbon strings tie under chin.

## FICHUS AND TUCKERS THAT IMPART SUCH A DELIGHTFUL EFFECT

It is remarkable how decorous, feminine, and altogether delightful an effect a fichu imparts to a dress. No wonder, many women are going to vary the changes with fichus of lace and fichus of muslin, fichus of fur, and fichus of velvet, such as Marie Antoinette and her ladies liked, upon their toilettes this winter.

For we are playing the part of our great-grandmothers again, and it is surprising that such words as gented, ladylike, elegant, and graceful are not often on our lips, seeing that it is of that vague cur manners and fashions are made. The very lowest walk may most honestly be described as mincing. The athletic stride is gone, and we glide along as if there were little wheels beneath our feet, with here and there a limp, suggestive, perhaps, of feeble knees, but only feeble enough to serve as a demonstration in total opposition to the strenuous movements that were deemed modish.

A fichu worn by a bride the other day was over a robe of ivory white supple satin, set in quite full at the waist and flounced with lace, which, to be correct, was Brussels, a lace that every bride who can will wear now, owing to its smartness and to the further fact that it, too, breathes memories of that same distant day when Brussels was the only wear.

Above this rich yet simple skirt a corsage a point was seen, made with a full chemisette, drawn into a collarless hand edged with lace and a fichu modestly draped about the shoulders and in front tucked inside the corsage beneath a knot of orange blossom, myrtle, and white heather. The sleeves were of elbow length, and flowered with lace, but it was the fichu that gave the frock its sign-manual.

The fichus of the hour have no ends; they are Puritanical in their sweet simplicity and effective.

A tucker is another adjunct of the evening toilette that is charmingly prim and pretty, but not quite new even as a revival, for early in the year we discovered its advantages, and entered it as a noticeably desirable item of our full dress frocks. Made of net or lace, it borders the décolletage, and has a drawing of ribbon run through it which is tied in front. There are many deviations of the tucker. One is applied to a day gown, and is a Toby frill in miniature made of lace pleated in the center, so that one edge stands up around the throat and the other lies down; and another is a quilling of point d'esprit or lace.

### Bridesmaids' Gifts.

Just the plain gold bracelets that slip on over the hand without a clasp are much liked as bridesmaids' gifts. These come in fourteen carat gold, either in the bright or dull finish, and cost from \$14 up to \$25. Similar to the diamond hearts which cost upward of \$100 are those of pearl, which are extremely pretty, and the expense is much less. For instance, a pretty pearl heart set only on one side can be bought for \$17, incrustated on both sides, \$22.

Lace pins are no longer given, for the reason that they are no longer worn, the collar pin having taken their place. But the latter are never given as a bridesmaid present. For ushers the two most popular gifts are sets of link cuff buttons and scarfpins. Styles in the latter differ very materially, but for a very smart function one of those most liked consists of monograms in small diamonds set in gold. These, of course, mount up to nearly the cost of the diamond hearts and are not within the means of the average person. Most of these bits of jewelry mentioned may be used as engagement presents if such are desired. Bracelets, particularly, are used in this connection.

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