

# HOMIE, ITS PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS

## IT REQUIRES REAL ART TO PROPERLY DRESS THE NECK

### French Fancies in Collars and Cuffs Popular—The Elizabethan Ruff Again in Vogue.

This is the day of the ruche. Never, since the time of Queen Elizabeth, have women decorated their throats more elaborately. Tulle, chiffons, laces, ribbons, spangles, embroideries, ruffs, tucks, and plaitings all take part in the grand march of the triumphal collar that swishes the neck of the slightest. Dog collars, fancy beads, Oriental chains weighing half a pound, and even wreaths of artificial flowers are used to add to the general confusion of loveliness tucked under the modern woman's chin.

The dressing of the neck is a real art. There are women who, from girlhood, have suffered more tortures over the choosing of their collars than over any other one thing, not excluding love and matrimony. There are women to whom a hangman's rope or an executioner's knife would be pleasanter than an ordinary collar. I have not the slightest doubt that the bewigged Queen Elizabeth felt doubly joyful when the lovely Mary Queen of Scots laid her head upon the block to know that the catchet would descend upon her rival's perfectly modeled nape and go straight through to her graceful throat. The doughty old Queen of the Gordon-knot of the collar proposition by wearing her famous ruff and thus dispensing with any chance of displaying her bones and sinews.

work, which makes it an attractive occupation and which has caused tenebrific almost completely to take the place of Renaissance, which once was such a fad among makers of fairy work.

**The Ruff Most Popular.**

The Elizabethan ruff is a fad which is on trial among smart women at present. The Elizabethan ruff is nothing more nor less, at present than a pleated ruffle of linen, tulle or lace fastened to the base of an ordinary collar. It sets out stiffly about the bottom of the throat and gives the gown a dressy touch. But to what it may develop no one can guess. In the matter of grace it has nothing to recommend it, and it has most decidedly the effect of the fancy paper round a nosegay, before referred to, or of having been put on as an afterthought and without any regard to the frock with which it is worn. Certainly it makes any but a very beautiful woman look old, and old-fashioned. Being smart, however, that great flock of women who look upon themselves as fashion leaders, and who work of art will wear it for a time at any rate.

**Large Bow Ties Back.**

Large bow ties are once more popular. There is no woman living to whom a bow under the chin is not becoming, and so these soft, pretty bows of silk, crepe de chine, lace, and chiffon will undoubtedly have a long run. Most of them come attached to the smarter stocks. They are finished with lace embroidery or tenebrific, and never by any chance are two ends alike.

The pique stock is still the proper thing for morning wear with the tailored gown or frock. To a tailor-made and there is nothing more becoming than these snowy pique stocks with their expanse of white ascot. With some of them come ascots of Persian silk or of neat blue and white polka dots. The beauty of a stock, however, like the beauty of a man's linen, lies entirely in its freshness, stiffness, and perfect shape. Without these it is a failure.

**For the Fluffy Girl.**

The soft, delicate bob, or tie, of cream or white, worn with a delicate bit of ruching sewn in at the throat, is the most becoming thing on the market for the fluffy girl. In fact, an adjustable stock of any kind is invariably more becoming and shapely than a stiff collar built upon a boned foundation; and bows and jabots are a boon to the hollow-chested and thin-skinned. The one who wears the stock and whoever the woman who wears it, the most she can do, even by her hair, is to preserve an approximately graceful and body, cover the chasm of ugliness, and preserve an approximately graceful and body. With this in view, she must study her face, her figure, her frocks, and her complexion. Even the way in which she wears her hair will have something to do with the good or bad effect of her collar. Many a girl who can wear a round, low collar with her tresses knotted low at the back of her neck would look like a poster girl in the same frock when her hair is pulled up into a high, tight do to establish an imaginary outline, such as an artist would draw of a picture girl, which she would pull out and take in until this outline has become a reality.

**Study of Contour of Face.**

Every woman should discover by the most careful investigation of her many experiments, the exact height of collar which is most becoming to her and which hides her throat and sets off her face. She should write this down on a piece of paper, and vary it only in the slightest degree to suit the changing style and her changing mood. She should find out at once what shades sets off her complexion, and stick to that one color through thick and thin. There is to reason why a woman should change color, any more than the skies should flowers or the stars. Her color should be as fixed as the color of the rainbow, which would completely lose its charm and individuality if it ceased to be so. Her complexion should be made up her mind finally and forever whether she is best suited to wear chifons and tulle, or looks cleaner and stiffer bands. Once having come to a definite conclusion on the real problem of dressing her neck, and only the work of it remains to be done.

**Requires Constant Attention.**

But keeping plenty of fresh collars and planning collars for each new gown and shirtwaist is by no means an easy task. Nothing is so easy as to become tired under her chin or a dingy linen tie at her throat. Freshness of neckwear is the essential mark of a refined woman. Cheap laces and tawdry ribbons and the abominable, easily fitted, ugly, ugly pins at the back, tarnished brooches, common beads and torn tulle are crimes against good dressing. The woman who told her husband she would buy her own gowns if he would pay for the "accessories" knew that she was getting the worst of the bargain, for half one's dress money may be spent on collars, ruchings, veils, gloves, shoes, and petticoats, and no one will guess where it has gone. Only that fresh, well-groomed appearance, that perfect line and charming daintiness which give the woman of the world and produce an impression that is worth, worth the money and, better than all, the Paris frocks that it might buy.

**Especially Becoming Style.**

There are certain styles in neckwear which are becoming nearly to all women. A year or two ago the tulle bow was one of these; now the tiny chifon ruche, which comes in all the delicate shades and which is seen tucked in the throat of almost every smart woman's frock, has taken its place. Care must be exercised in wearing ruches, however, not to get them too broad and full, else one's face may look like an old-fashioned bouquet protruding from a fancy paper cover. Just the slightest suggestion of a soft, delicate edging, usually cream or flesh color, is very becoming to the average woman and gives a finishing touch to almost any gown.

**Useful Hints**

**An Oldtime Rule for Starch.**

A good old-time housewife offers the following rule for starch: Mix one tablespoonful of starch with four tablespoonfuls of cold water, and pour on this three quarts of boiling water. Boil for twenty minutes. Then add one teaspoonful of salt and a piece of paraffin wax half the size of a nutmeg. Stir until the wax is dissolved, then cool and strain through cheesecloth. To add luster, soak the articles in this preparation for six hours.

**A Poultice for Burns.**

Try a poultice of tea leaves as a cure for burns and scalds. Pour boiling water over the tea; and as soon as the leaves are soft, and after they have cooled, lay them on the burn, and cover them over the burn and cover with cotton. The pain, it is said, will stop immediately.

**A Cleansing Bath.**

A small teaspoonful of pulverized borax or a teaspoonful of ammonia in a washbowl of tepid water makes a good cleansing bath for the sick.

**To Prevent Chills.**

It is said that thin silk stockings, if worn under the ordinary cotton stockings, will prevent chills as well as keep the feet warm.

**Dish for an Invalid.**

Sago jelly is a nice dish for an invalid. Add six tablespoonfuls of sago to a quart of boiling water, and stir frequently until it has formed a thick jelly. Sweeten with five or six tablespoonfuls of sugar and flavor with vanilla, nutmeg, cinnamon or lemon. Pour it into small molds while it is still hot, and when cold serve with a little cream.

**THE HISTORY OF CHAMPAGNE—No. 1.**

TWO MONKS in the France of long ago, seeking a site for a new abbey, saw a white dove settle upon the stump of a tree.

The sign was heeded and here arose the famous St. Peters of Hautvillers, destined to be the scene of experiments in wine-making which lead to the discovery of Champagne, and, after many centuries, its perfection as found today in

**Great Western**

Extra Dry

The qualities of fruit and soil that have made fame for French Champagnes, have been attained after long and careful cultivation in the old New York vineyards of the makers of Great Western.

These natural conditions combined with the ancient secrets of this delicate art, known and practiced by us, have resulted in this superior Champagne of American make.

The purest Champagne of any country, most delicious in flavor and bouquet. The only American Champagne receiving a gold medal at Paris—better than foreign goods, at half the price.

Try It On Your Table.

PLEASANT VALLEY WINE CO. Sole Makers, RHINES, N. Y.

Sold everywhere by Dealers in Fine Wines.



**CALLING COSTUME OF BROADCLOTH.**

An exceedingly stylish costume of lightweight broadcloth was shown by a leading shop at an advance opening of imported gowns.

The skirt is plain with little straps near the top held in place by tiny gold buttons. The attractive bodice has a bib front of heavy coru lace, below which is a vest of golden bengaline. Revers of cloth run from shoulder to waist line, with three little straps, just below bust line. Similar decoration is used on the deep cuff and collar.

**Best Quality of Pretty Silk Umbrellas at Bargain Prices Now**

Inventories of their umbrella stocks have just been taken in the shops and, therefore, now is the time for the bargain hunters to go forth and obtain really good values. Silver handled umbrellas with desirable designs may be had for half or third the original price, and if one is not too particular to the handle many odd kinds of "leftovers" are marked down wonderfully.

Each season brings with the regular stock certain novelties in handles, which are put forth tentatively, to test their selling value. Sometimes these new ideas are liked and snapped up quickly; that means, of course, rushed orders to the factory for a further supply. But if these patterns do not please customers, and are left unsold until the time of the year, they are put out on the counters with the rest of the old stock, to be sold off for much less than their actual value.

At one shop they are selling now numbers of crystal handled umbrellas which were marked originally \$12 for just half that sum. These are beautifully made of heavy quality silk with the desirable tight roll. They are in no wise behind the time, either, as fashion runs, for some of the newest and smartest models show the crystal handle, but this special lot found no sale at the first price, and the big houses do not care to carry stock over a season.

At another shop some very handsome umbrellas for men are being sold at almost one-third off. These have heavily reposed handles and are of first quality silk, their only disqualification being the tiny scratches on the silver which betray their departed newness.

Among the new umbrellas which are just being shown is one of silk in green, violet, black or blue, with handle of enameled wood to match. This is intended for duty in storm and sunshine, and is dainty in appearance as well as serviceable. It is much lighter than the usual umbrella, and is sold for the same purpose. The new model sells for from \$15 to \$20, the silk being especially of sugar and lemon. Pour it into small molds while it is still hot, and when cold serve with a little cream.

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**THE AMETHYST VOGUE**

Smart Women Wear the Amethyst on All Occasions.

Amethysts have become suddenly the rage here, and are even more popular abroad. In England the vogue is attributed to the favor recently shown to this charming purple stone by Queen Alexandra. In Paris it is stated that Queen Helena of Italy is the distinguished wearer of the stone who has chiefly brought it into fashion again. There has been a long period of neglect for the amethyst. Two or three generations ago it was in the highest favor, and brides were as pleased to receive a "set" as brooch, earrings and necklace were then called, in this stone as in almost any other save the diamond.

The form in which amethysts are chiefly favored in Paris is as round beads, threaded of a size to lie round the base of the collar in the daytime or at "tea" as brooch, earrings and necklace. Necklaces of other kinds of stone beads are being well patronized, Jew from China, or its near relative, New Zealand greenstone, Egyptian carnelian, lapis lazuli, and for those whose whims are not affected by the depth of the purse required to satisfy them, cabochon emeralds, irregular turquoises, fine pink coral and real amber for the new bead chain necklace.

**SATIN FOR BRIDES**

The Modish Bride Still Gives This Lovely Fabric First Choice.

Fashionable Paris says that satin is de rigueur for this spring's bride.

To be sure, it is a new satin, a satin soft and supple to a degree unknown to the satin of yesterday. Liberty satin, having considerable body, though wonderfully soft and graceful, is preferred by some fashion autocrats, who consider that with all its suppleness it retains a richness lacking in the very lightweight satins that are even newer than the Liberty and are scarcely heavier than crepe or silk mousseline.

Among these very lightweight wedding gown stuffs not only satin creases and the other extremely light satins, but chiffon, mousseline, satin gauze, and other sheer white stuffs are reckoned, and beautiful filmy gowns are created from them, usually with an accompaniment of much handwork and detail in contrast with the severity of the satin models.

For informal weddings and for very girlish brides sheer gowns are especially appropriate, and such gowns are more readily utilized after the wedding for evening and dinner wear; but for the formal wedding gown pure and simple, satin is recommended by the most fashionable dressmakers.

**VERNAL HAT CHAT**

A couple of rosette bows adorn the back of a smart hat. They are made of such exquisitely soft ribbon that there is very little bulk to the nearly dozen of loops and three ends that form each of them. Each end is cut in five points. The hat, by the way, boasts four corners.

In the new sailor hat, which is built up high at the back and is short in front, we have quite the latest variation upon one of the famous hats of the time of Louis XVII. The trimming is mostly under the brim.

Dainty, quaint faces, after having been overshadowed by immense hats, will be enhanced by the tiny polo and kindred hats, which are the most charming of headresses. A wing of Mephistophelian pointedness is at the left of the most recent example.

Crimline and hair straws are made up into the most modish millinery.

Very many of the hats—in fact, nearly all—rest upon all-round bandeaux, an inch or more (or less) in height. This means that they do not press on the hair, even though the brim dip decidedly.

It is noted that trimmings do not stand out in a way to disguise the shape of a hat. Rather do they follow and adorn it.

Heavy ribbon arrangements have gone out along with the high crowns. Ribbon trimmings are all dainty. Some toques are made entirely of ribbon, and the pipestems are tip tilted in the fashion of a quill.

There is much disagreeing on the subject of ribbons. One authority states that strong colors have pushed out of vogue the pastel shades. Another authority states the reverse. Between us shall no doubt continue to do as we please.

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When blankets are to be washed for the first time they should first be soaked overnight in cold water and then rinsed. This is to remove the sulphur used in the bleaching. After this they should be soaked until clear in a lukewarm lather made with boiled soap and water, and then rinsed well in clear water.

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For the trained nurse it is possibly the greatest secret to be earnest, yet cheerful; to appreciate the gravity of each case and to find readily the right word of comfort. In light, doubtless short, particularly in all curable diseases, it is really no trick to point with certainty and confidence to convalescence. With this conviction the right words suggest themselves. It is more difficult with those severely sick to give comforting words with cheer than to the doubtful, fearful mind of incurables.

**HOUSEHOLD CHAT**

Burn pine tar occasionally in a sick room. It is an excellent disinfectant and it also induces sleep.

Heavy furniture polish consists of two parts of raw linseed oil and one of turpentine. Mix thoroughly by shaking. Apply a thin coat with a flannel cloth and then rub thoroughly and briskly with a dry cloth.

Some housekeepers always make a point of bedding their soap in large quantities, as they say it improves with age.

When blankets are to be washed for the first time they should first be soaked overnight in cold water and then rinsed. This is to remove the sulphur used in the bleaching. After this they should be soaked until clear in a lukewarm lather made with boiled soap and water, and then rinsed well in clear water.

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## SATIN FOR BRIDES

The Modish Bride Still Gives This Lovely Fabric First Choice.

Fashionable Paris says that satin is de rigueur for this spring's bride. To be sure, it is a new satin, a satin soft and supple to a degree unknown to the satin of yesterday. Liberty satin, having considerable body, though wonderfully soft and graceful, is preferred by some fashion autocrats, who consider that with all its suppleness it retains a richness lacking in the very lightweight satins that are even newer than the Liberty and are scarcely heavier than crepe or silk mousseline.

Among these very lightweight wedding gown stuffs not only satin creases and the other extremely light satins, but chiffon, mousseline, satin gauze, and other sheer white stuffs are reckoned, and beautiful filmy gowns are created from them, usually with an accompaniment of much handwork and detail in contrast with the severity of the satin models.

For informal weddings and for very girlish brides sheer gowns are especially appropriate, and such gowns are more readily utilized after the wedding for evening and dinner wear; but for the formal wedding gown pure and simple, satin is recommended by the most fashionable dressmakers.

## VERNAL HAT CHAT

A couple of rosette bows adorn the back of a smart hat. They are made of such exquisitely soft ribbon that there is very little bulk to the nearly dozen of loops and three ends that form each of them. Each end is cut in five points. The hat, by the way, boasts four corners.

In the new sailor hat, which is built up high at the back and is short in front, we have quite the latest variation upon one of the famous hats of the time of Louis XVII. The trimming is mostly under the brim.

Dainty, quaint faces, after having been overshadowed by immense hats, will be enhanced by the tiny polo and kindred hats, which are the most charming of headresses. A wing of Mephistophelian pointedness is at the left of the most recent example.

Crimline and hair straws are made up into the most modish millinery. Very many of the hats—in fact, nearly all—rest upon all-round bandeaux, an inch or more (or less) in height. This means that they do not press on the hair, even though the brim dip decidedly.

It is noted that trimmings do not stand out in a way to disguise the shape of a hat. Rather do they follow and adorn it. Heavy ribbon arrangements have gone out along with the high crowns. Ribbon trimmings are all dainty. Some toques are made entirely of ribbon, and the pipestems are tip tilted in the fashion of a quill.

There is much disagreeing on the subject of ribbons. One authority states that strong colors have pushed out of vogue the pastel shades. Another authority states the reverse. Between us shall no doubt continue to do as we please.

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