PAGE DEVOTED TO THE FAIR SEX.

SUPERSTITIONS OF A BRIDE

ANCIENT CUSTOMS THAT ARE STILL SAID TO REMAIN IN FAVOR

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHITE

Color in Its Relation to Bridal Attire—Fortune Telling by the Bride's Garters—Ring Symbolism.

Notwithstanding the intellectual progress of the nineteenth century, superstitious belief still has a hold, and more than a few of these gather about love and marriage. Our maidens affect not to the superstitious, but many of the beliefs of past centuries are venerated quite as much, today, if it were but known. In a few weeks the Easter bride will be one of the foremost objects of interest, and in order to secure long life and happiness, popular belief holds that she must bear in mind a number of things.

For instance, if she wishes to secure good fortune, she must wear upon her wedding day, without fail:

"Something old and something new,
"Something borrowed and something blue."

To allow another woman to take the engagement, or wedding, ring from her finger is equivalent to relinquishing the man of her heart. To drop the wedding ring during the ceremony is supposed to bring misfortune to the wedded pair's future life.

SIGNIFICANCE OF WHITE.

In our own dear land, the Philadelphia Record says, white, signifying purity or chastity, is the favorite color for bridal attire; while yellow and green are the most unlucky shades possible, signifying jealousy, infidelity and general unhappiness. This aversion is reversed in the case of the Italian peasantry, as their favorite wedding dresses are Tyrian purple, green or yellow. Pink seems to be shunned by maidens of all nations, and red is only looked upon with favor in China.

BRIDE'S GARTERS.

The auspicious bit of blue with us frequently takes the shape of a silken garter, which, after the ceremony, is either cut up into tiny pieces or hidden. When it is hidden the bridesmaids hunt for it, and the lucky finder is assured a good husband and a happy marriage before the year is out. When cut, it is divided among the bridesmaids to give each one good luck and good husbands.

An English bride gives her garters to her maid of honor, while a German one provides a pair of "stocking bands," either white or blue silk, for each of her bridesmaids.

It is to be hoped that each fair reader who is still unappropriated will have the gift of a yellow silk garter upon the coming Easter morning, for this is said to be a certain and sure talisman that she will change from spinster to matron before the next Easter.

RING FINGER.

The wedding ring has been worn on the same finger for centuries, because of the old idea that a nerve went from the fourth finger to the heart. Its plain circlet shape, having neither beginning nor end, signifies external fidelity, while the gold denotes purity.

Many brides wear a guard ring, taking care never to remove the wedding ring after the bridegroom puts it on. Tradition has it that to lose the wedding ring means divorce or death; while to pledge it, dire misfortune.

VEILS AS BEAUTIFIERS.

Women With Insignificant Figures Should Use Close Dots.

Nothing is so necessary to a well groomed appearance as a pretty veil, and nothing so ruinous as a crumpled one. Crisp freshness is essential. In the choice of these dainty accessories even the most economical woman become extravagant. It seems to be a fact that pretty women insist upon wearing veils that too completely cover their faces, while those who would look the better for a disguising film favor light meshes.

Real thread lace veils, with a border reaching from mouth to chin, are among the most expensive new designs, and beautify mouths of doubtful prettiness, say the New York Tribune. Mme. Sembrich gives her name to a closely dotted affair, pretty and fashionable, but exceedingly bad for the eyes. Women not endowed with well defined features should eschew the close dots. Small features become insignificant behind them. The open mesh, sparsely sprinkled with large velvet dots, like "patches," are generally becoming. They do not try the eyes as much as dotted veils.

In London a veil has made its appearance which will, its inventor claims, protect the most delicate skin from the evil effects of chilling winds. Even the most beautiful woman are apt to look blue and pinched when exposed to the cold. This new veil is of transparent, colorless material, light as a feather, yet so constructed that, worn under an ordinary veil, it protects the face as effectually as if made of glass. Its wearer will look as immaculate at the end of a long journey as if she had just emerged from her room. Another useful veil, and a becoming one also, has invisible eye shields underneath to protect the eyes from dust when the wearer is driving.

Fine close mesh veils are not so becoming to some, because they darken the skin. Plain Brussels net and tulle are in this category. The new double veils, black over white, soften the face, and are becoming to women of middle age. The outer veil may be any sort of mesh, but sheer white illusion always forms the background.

A veil that will doubtless become popular has an irregular scroll pattern all over it, consisting of chenille dots of various sizes, from pinpoint dots to those the size of a pea. The scroll is of goodly temple, and gives to the face a curious appearance. These veils are scarcely becoming, but their oddity draws attention to the wearer's face.

Take a lined saucepan, and in it make a strong solution of soap and water, put the veil into it and place over the fire to simmer for about twenty minutes; then squeeze the veil in warm soap and water till it is quite clean; rinse in cold water, then again in a little cold water to which has been added a few drops of blue and one lump of sugar. Shake the veil gently and pin it on a clean towel to dry.

In bridal veils two pleated fans of tulle are now used instead of the coronet arrangement. They stand upright upon the head as would an aigrette, and are placed one on either side of a tiny spray of orange blossoms. The fans must not be too tall or stiff.

MEDICINE "AD" MAKES WOMEN'S COUNCIL SUE.

MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWELL.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 26.—Mrs. May Wright Sewell, honorary president of the National Council of Women, made a statement tonight concerning a testimonial given to a patent medicine company by Louise Wolcott, of this city, on the letterhead of the council's stationery, which is being reproduced in large type in newspaper advertisements.

"The National Council of Women," said Mrs. Sewell, "through its present president and Mrs. May Wright Sewell, whose official notehead during the time of her presidency is used in connection with an advertisement, have entered a protest against this outrage upon private rights and against this use of whatever prestige may belong to the name of the society and of an officer conspicuously connected with it. The matter has been placed in the hands of an attorney for redress."

BUY A BEDROOM SAFE.

When the Amaryllis Glows in the Window Garden.

This senseless continuous fearing that "my watch is lost!" or "can my diamond pendant have been stolen?" in ever so many families leads one to suggest that they might make life much less laborious if they invested in a safe.

This safe should be kept in the sleeping or dressing room of the head of the house, and everything of particular value stowed within its iron walls.

It is not so very ugly to look upon, and if its dull exterior happens to be at war with one's furnishing, it's very easy to throw a cover over it.

It takes up no more room than a tabourette or a small chair, and may have a book rack or jardiniere, with a plant, resting on top of it.

And then you are safe! There's no jumping up like a beheaded chicken at the thought that the discharged maid may have taken a necklace, or the ashman have slipped up into the house and appropriated some valuable plate. Many a girl wastes lots of time searching for mislaid treasures, while more shivering matrons add to their gray hairs by creeping down stairs to see that this or that treasure has really been locked in the sideboard. As if even that was safe!

Some people have peculiar ideas on the subject of jewelry. One thought as much upon seeing a bracelet with a row of big diamonds slide down from under the sleeve of a woman; she explained that she was afraid to leave her jewels at home, for fear of thieves. Really, people who go about like diamond kings (or queens) should be able to have detectives in attendance.

The chamois bag, a safety deposit vault, or a safe at home are the things for less theatrical people, and the safe is better than the bag. You may lose the latter, but, even if your house burns down, you've but to have the safe fished out of the ashes.

For traveling one either leaves valuables in the vault, or carries them in a bag on the person. Transporting them in a hand bag is too risky.

TUCKS ON EVERYTHING.

Feminine Garments All Display the Same Style of Garniture.

The vogue of the tuck is something startling. Everything is tucked, from milady's hat to the bow on her dainty evening slipper!

The shirt waist revels in tucks until one is ready to vote the shirt which boasts none a sorry affair. Then there's the entire bodice, for evening wear or otherwise, which is tucked. And very beautiful it is. In some elaborate instances the entire dress is tucked to below the knees.

Then there's a mere tucked yoke; most dainty little finish in taffeta for a taut little blouse bodice. The tucked guimpe is the yoke plus sleeves, though it is tucked in the opposite direction—crosswise, that is. The one pictured is of mousseline.

As we all know, the world of lingerie rests on a foundation of tucks. A few ornament the plainer specimens, while the splendid sorts are masses of tucks, tucks bias, tucks straight, tucks in lattice effect, tucks without number. Whole petticoats and chemises (even the two in a combination garment) are formed of lengthwise tucks, which are let out round the foot to form a ruffle, and even to support additional frills.

So much for the tuck, and it seems that the "latest tuck" is to get as many tucks as possible.

SOME VARIATIONS OF TUCKING.

WHAT CHILDREN FEAR MOST.

Surprising Facts in a Report About to Be Issued.

A mine of surprising facts will be presented to the scientific world in a forthcoming report by Prof. Arthur MacDonald, of the bureau of education at Washington, giving the results of a unique study of no less than 15,000,000 of school children, both here and abroad.

A study of fear in the youthful subjects was made by distributing hundreds of lists containing all manner of causes such as might excite their emotion. Parents, teachers and other persons—even the little ones themselves—marked off such items as the latter really feared. After reducing all of the replies to a table it was found the highest number feared thunderstorms, the next highest, reptiles. Then follow, in order, according to the number fearing them, strangers, darkness, fire, death, domestic animals, disease, wild animals, water, insects, ghosts, etc. A comparison of an equal number of boys and girls showed that the girls feared 1,765 things on the list and the boys 1,106 things. The girls exceeded the boys in the fear of everything, except water, high places and strangers. The ratio of girls to boys in the fear of rats and mice was 75.13, as might be expected. It was also ascertained that fear in the boys increases from the seventh to the fifteenth year, and then declines, while in girls it increases more steadily from the fourth to the eighteenth year before diminishing. The fear of thunder and lightning, reptiles, robbers and machinery were found to increase with age.

Another novel inquiry enlarged upon the fear of ghosts in children. By questioning the little ones and tabulating their answers it was discovered that the most frequent source of their knowledge of ghosts was in stories told by other children. Stories read by them ranked second in frequency. Of all the other sources servants had been the most active. Some had derived their first knowledge from pictures, a fewer number from games or from their own imaginations. The smallest number, less than 1 per cent, had first heard of ghosts from their parents. It was discovered that fear almost universally accompanied belief in such specires. Other reactive effects in order of frequency were fascination, fear of something else in addition to the ghost, lingering fear, absence of fear, fear of telling, enjoyment and a desire to run away. Almost a third of all the children examined had the conception that ghosts were white, an eighth that they were like the human figure, a ninth that they were shadowy, an eleventh that they were like dead persons, a fourteenth that they had long arms or hands, and less than a nineteenth that they were like skeletons. Additional notions as to appearance in order of frequency were that "spooks" have sepulchral voices, are without substance, luminous, black, like animals, like fairies or spirits, and that they have lurid, hollow eyes. The most popular conception as to the power of ghosts was that they chase and catch children.

A study of "only children"—those without a brother or sister—indicated that this class are below the average of health and vitality. Mental and physical defects of a grave nature were found much more common among them than among children generally. They were found to enter school later than other children, and to be less regular in attendance. Their success in school work was below the average. They did not appear to join readily in games with other children, but preferred quiet forms of amusement. A considerable number had imaginary companions. Their school relations were generally characterized by friction. Precocity and selfishness were predominant traits. Such defects seemed to result from the tendency of parents to spoil "only children," and from a tendency to sterility in the stock. A careful study of the circumstances of birth and childhood of what were considered to be the fifty greatest men of modern times disclosed the fact—interesting in comparison—that the average great man was born in a family of six children, not including half-brothers nor half-sisters. It was figured from the data that the chances for greatness in a child are two to one in favor of the older half of the family.

The growth in children degenerates as we go lower in the social scale is shown by statistics of 50,000 individuals. There is found to be a difference of five inches in average statures between the best and worst nurtured classes. In a separate study of boys alone the same results were visibly shown. Beginning with public school boys with good home surroundings in the country and then falling into grades successively lower and lower—through asylums, industrial schools and the like—their mean statures show a constant degradation. In another investigation children were separated into two classes, the poor and the well-to-do. Their livers were measured through their skins by an expert, who found that those of the rich were considerably larger than those of the poor.

In experiments for testing the memory powers of an equal number of boys and girls at different ages, in school and university classes, they were all read a simple story containing 324 words and 152 distinct ideas. The reading required three minutes, after which they immediately proceeded to write what they could remember. The conclusions were that the growth of memory is more rapid in girls than in boys, perhaps in accordance with the general law that puberty occurs earlier in the former.

Another unique plan of research was for the purpose of studying the characters of children through their doll habits, it being considered that the educational value of dolls is very great. A list of twenty-nine questions was prepared and submitted to nearly 1,000 children, boys and girls. The various kinds of dolls played with ranked as follows in their order of popularity: Wax, paper, china, rag, bisque, rubber. Of many confessing that they had treated other things as dolls, the greatest number had substituted cats, clothes-pins, pillows, bottles, sticks and dogs. Nearly four-fifths had tried to feed dolls; nearly two-thirds had thought them hungry; nearly seven-tenths had credited them with mental powers; almost the same number had really thought them sick at times. It was discovered that of the average city school children below six years 82 per cent of boys and 98 per cent of girls have played with dolls; between six and twelve years, 76 per cent of boys and 99 per cent of girls.

A NURSERY PUZZLE.

Affairs in our nursery
Are really very mixed;
Perhaps you kindly may suggest
A way to get them fixed.
If you should come to visit us
You'd find with our doors
A little knickerbockered girl
And a boy in pinafores.

For sturdy Richard dearly loves
To play with girlish toys,
While blue-eyed Marjory declares
A preference for boys.
When little maidens come to call
They always play with Dick,
While Marjory is happy with
A jack-knife and a stick.

But when the neighbor laddies come
To spend an afternoon,
Then Madge is in her element,
And all of us are soon
Employed in rushing here and there
A-dodging of their balls,
While Richard does the washing for
His family of dolls.

And when on dismal rainy days
They choose a cozy nook
Beside the glowing nursery fire,
Each with a story book,
'Tis "Alice's Adventures" that
Our Richard's buried in,
While Marjory with interest
Reads "Huckleberry Finn."

We know that we have children two—
A boy and girl—no more,
Yet funny Uncle Tom insists
That really we have four,
And undertakes to prove to us,
By arguments prolix,
That we possess two Marjories
And a pair of little Dicks.

—Jennie Betts Hartswick in the April Woman's Home Companion.

EMU'S EGG OMELETTE.

Unique Luncheon as Lately Served in London.

A dozen gentlemen sat down at the Camera club yesterday, says the London Mail, to what was perhaps the most remarkable meal that has been eaten in the country since Frank Buckland dined off jaguar steak.

Mr. Henry Stevens, of King street, Covent Garden, some time ago conceived the idea of treating his friends to a luncheon, the distinguishing feature of which should be an emu's egg omelette. Sir Cuthbert Peek presented the egg, and Mr. Stevens yesterday successfully carried out his idea.

First of all were served kangaroos' tails a l'Australian and saddle of reindeer, and then followed the great event of the occasion—the opening of the emu's egg in order to hand over its contents, which weighed about two pounds, to the chief of the Camera club. Amid quip and crank, waxing merrier and merrier, Mr. Stevens dexterously sawed off one end of the shell, purposing to have the remains mounted in silver as a cup.

Various savouries in the shape of crocodiles' eggs, alligator's egg, and even gigantic snails' eggs adorned the sideboard.

Mr. Stevens had another surprise in the shape of the finest and most beautifully-marked egg of the extinct great auk, which has come into his hands.

FRESH AIR AND SUNSHINE.

None So Poor That They May Not Enjoy Them.

Sensible femininity isn't going to be foolish enough to let any of these beautiful sunshiny days pass without a good taste of outdoor exercise.

But it really is very amusing to note some of the things some of us call outdoor exercise. One woman imagines she is exercising when in the dark depths of a coupe she journeys to her dearest friend, where, in the light of pink shaded lamps, they talk it all over the teacups. Another woman fancies she's attending to this virtuous pleasure when she hies her to shopland and passes some hours at the exciting bargain hunt, while one who is really on the right track spoils it all by taking her park jaunt in a closed carriage.

This is all wrong, the bargain hunt worst of all! Indeed there are few things so fatiguing as a half day of shopping.

Walking is the thing! And the country the place. If you can't get out that far, then the park, and if even that is too far, the city squares will have to do. But at the least get out, away from the tiresome buildings, where the sun and air have a chance at your complexion and lungs.

IMPORTANCE OF BREAKFAST.

School Children Need Attention for This Meal.

Sallie Joy White contributes to the April Woman's Home Companion an essentially practical article on "The Breakfast Hour," in the course of which she says:

"A teacher in one of the large city schools says that if any of her pupils complain of headache during the morning, or are peevish and hard to get along with, the first question she asks is if a proper breakfast has been eaten. If she finds it has not, she sends the pupil for a luncheon. She also advises the mothers of her pupils that when a child shows little disposition for breakfast the mother should see that it is supplied with a luncheon to carry to school to eat at the recess period. I don't know how many housekeepers I have heard say that the meal they most dreaded was breakfast. They knew what to have for dinner, and could get up a dainty tea or appetizing luncheon, but they never knew what to get for breakfast. I always think these housekeepers either must have very little originality or must be too indolent or indifferent to think things out. There may be just as much variety in the breakfast as in any other meal."

STRIKING AND ARTISTIC.

Trimmings of flitter and cut jet are unusually handsome in the new spring showings, and may be had in all sorts of ready-made pieces, just ready to put on, even to all the pieces prepared for a whole waist.

Garnitures of Arabian lace and embroidery are among the most recently introduced of new dress garnitures. They are very striking and stylish to an extreme degree, so are being constantly taken up by the most fashionably dressed of exclusive women.

Use for a Smoking Jacket.

Weekly Dispatch.

Husband—My dear, it is very thoughtful of you to buy this handsome smoking jacket for me, but I really can't afford to wear anything so ruinously expensive.

Wife—That's too bad; but never mind, they'll take it back.

"And give you the money?"

"Oh, no; but they will exchange it for some dress material."

Herkomer's Portrait of the Kaiser.

The portrait of Emperor William which Prof. Hubert Herkomer is painting will be ready for exhibition at the big Berlin art exhibition early this spring. The pose and treatment will be entirely new, and the emperor has left all to the artist.

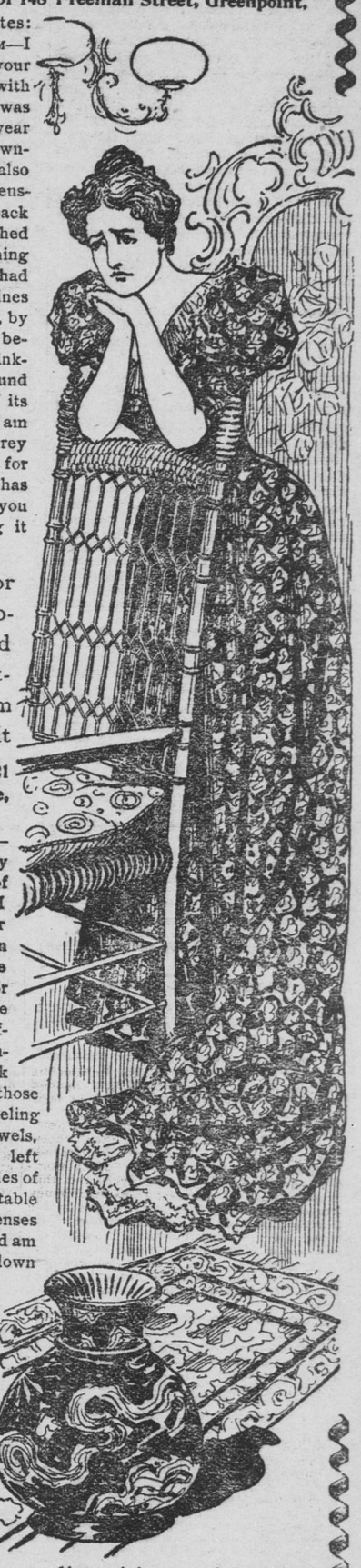
Woman's Dread

The terror of many women's lives is menstruation.

Such women wear themselves out with suffering and seem to think there is no relief from the monthly pains.

Miss Emily F. Hass, of 148 Freeman Street, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N. Y., writes:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I wish to state that I used your Vegetable Compound with the greatest success. I was very sick for nearly a year with hysteria, was downhearted and nervous; also suffered with painful menstruation and pain in back and limbs. I often wished for death, thinking nothing would cure me. I had doctors, but their medicines did me no good. At last, by the advice of a friend, I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound with very little hope of its doing me any good, but I am happy to say I am entirey cured. Thanking you for the good your medicine has done me, I am sending you my testimonial, hoping it will help others."



Special advice for every suffering woman can be secured free of cost by writing to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., for it

Mrs. C. D. Smith, 221 Eleventh St., Racine, Wis., writes:

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—I gladly give you my testimonial in favor of your remedies. When I first commenced your treatment I had been suffering from female troubles and weakness for some time. Menses were irregular, coming too often, and were very painful. I could not walk a great distance, had those terrible bearing-down feeling in the lower part of bowels, backache, and pain in left ovary. I used five bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and my menses have become regular, and am cured of that bearing-down feeling after walking. I consider your Compound one of the best medicines there is for those complaints peculiar to women. I thank you for the good advice you gave me. I will gladly recommend your medicine, and hope that every one who suffers as I did will give it a trial."

To sacrifice beauty, disposition and health to a false idea is folly. Generations of ignorance have handed down belief in the necessity of monthly suffering. A healthy woman should experience but little pain and only a moderate amount of inconvenience.

Mrs. Van Cleft Advises Women.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM—For several years my health was miserable. I suffered the most dreadful pains, and was almost on the verge of insanity. I consulted one of the best physicians in New York, and he pronounced my disease a fibroid tumor, advising an operation without delay, saying that it was my only chance for life. Other doctors prescribed strong and violent medicine, and one said I was incurable, another told me my only salvation was galvanic batteries, which I tried, but nothing relieved me. One day a friend called and begged me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I began its use and took several bottles. From the very first bottle there was a wonderful change for the better. The tumor has disappeared entirely and my old spirits have returned. I heartily recommend your medicine to all suffering women."—**Mrs. Van Cleft, 416 Saunders Ave., Jersey City Heights, N. J.**

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—A Woman's Remedy for Woman's Ills.

R & G

When an R & G Corset is made, it is stretched over a steam-heated, iron form with a pressure of 600 pounds, that takes out every atom of "give" in the goods. The iron form is modeled after a perfect human figure and each style of R & G Corsets has its special form.

R & G Corsets are the only corsets that are made in this way—the only corsets that will not stretch—the only ones that do not have to be broken in.

Every R & G Corset is guaranteed to fit and wear satisfactorily.

The picture shows the style of our popular Number 397, which sells at $1. It has absolutely all the perfection of shape, fit and wear that any corset can have, no matter what the price. No corset of any other make is as good at any price.

Your dealer can supply you with R & G Corsets, if he will. If he will not, write to R & G CORSET CO., 375 BROADWAY, N. Y.

CORSETS