

The Dictates of Fashion



HANDSOME AFTERNOON GOWNS

This season's fashions demand three essentials of the woman who would be strictly in style, namely, a practically unlimited exchequer, a slender figure and a certain distinctive personality, without which the two former, powerful factors though they sound, are powerless to achieve elegance. Nor is it at all sufficient that a woman's proportions be slim, her income bulky, and her individuality marked, the present vogue goes so far as to exact that her clothes shall appear to bear the same relationship to her as the petals to a flower. She must not primarily attract attention on account of her dress, the successful toilet charming by virtue of its intimate association with its wearer whom satisfied imagination fails to picture in any other style of gown.

There is no disputing that, to the unfortunate woman blessed with the necessary qualifications, the prevailing modes are pre-eminently becoming. The short-waisted effects are delightfully old-world and piquant, while the long clinging skirts make for grace, which recalls the fact that no luxurious and prodigal costumer worthy the name would consent to take an order for a short skirt. The softest of liberty satins do duty as lining, and the skirts designed to accompany the long high-waisted coats worn by the leaders of fashion, bear little corselet attachments and deep belts.

An attempted innovation, and one that has not so far met with an enthusiastic reception is to have bodice and sleeves of different textures. For example a dress worn on her "at home" day by a well-known hostess, boasted a skirt of cream-colored point d'esprit trimmed down in front and about the foot with a narrow ruching of Rose du Barry velvet ribbon. The swathed corsage of Rose du Barry velvet tapered to a point in front, and fitted high up to the throat by means of a deep collar band, the puffed elbow sleeves being of cream point d'esprit.

Striped materials, and textures invested with vertical lines of lace or ribbon, predominate, on account of the prevailing desire to appear as slim as possible. All garments are planned with this object in view, the second end aimed at being to place the waist as high as possible, a style which the very tall will do well to eschew. At present the woman of moderate inches is having her innings, and very good innings they are too, nevertheless, her more generously proportioned sister may take heart of grace, as it is quite feasible that their day may not be as far off as it seems. Probably in the near future we shall leave off banting, and instead take to fattening up and letting out our now tightly-laced corsets.

With regard to the re-modelling of an indoor frock for afternoon wear a yoke, and tightly fitting cuffs to the elbow of gulfure lined with chiffon blanc, has a marvellously rejuvenating effect. The same applies to a belt of silk, satin or velvet in the same shade as the costume, relieved with tiny bows and diminutive steel buckles up both back and front. Should the front of the skirt have become shabby, a panel matching the belt, or else one of similar lace to that used for the yoke, may be introduced with advantage, while an effective note of color is struck by a bunch of violets, carnations or roses pinned into the corsage.

The picturesque dominates both gowns shown in the illustration. The silk skirt with a brocade coat has facings of velvet, and a vest of lace and chiffon on the under bodice, while the skirt is decorated with crossed rows of thick gulfure. The other costume shows a combination of ecru lace, residu green voile and mulberry colored velvet, and the bodice is of a shape which would be eminently suited to those who are flat across the chest.

The Dressing of the Hair

Surely never since the days of wigs were such wonderful coiffures seen as those adorning the head of the fashionable woman this season. Only to look at them gives one the ache of the hairdresser's chair. Two hours it takes sometimes—two whole, mortal hours to have the hair built into the undulating temples and tea houses and bird cages, which now ornament the head of woman. Then, if the coiffure happens to be a busy gentleman, it is necessary often to be coiffed for the opera at eight o'clock in the morning.

Curls are much to the fore, and a flat sort, as unyielding to look at as country sausages, are called empire or "chichi curls." These are tucked in every crevice, entirely shaping broad chignons at the back sometimes, or lying beside classic bands or other puffs at the top of the head.

To accomplish the indelible wave seen—for there is a sort that lasts a year—the hair is sometimes baked in molds. Dressings which have a rich metal glitter provide the sheen, and at every spot where nature shows a vacuum is applied a false bit fabricated for this spot and no other.

At the sides, the modish coiffure is not quite as wide as formerly, except, of course, with some special genre. A narrow look is being pushed to the front, and this forehead Anglaise, as

it is called, may also show at the sides wigs of the English fringe. With such opera coiffures go diars,



A Trinity of Graceful Coiffures.

high combs, bands of jeweled stars and waving aligrettes, for it is the more flatly and widely treated head which is flower crowned.

STRANGE MONSTER SCARES CITIZENS

WEIRD BABOON-LIKE CREATURE SEEN NEAR DARBY, PA.

MAY BE PRACTICAL JOKE

Belated Wayfarer of Delaware County Frightened by Mysterious Thing and Many Residents Are Arming Themselves.

Darby, Pa.—All Delaware county is stirred up over the supposed antics of an alleged wild animal which is asserted to look like a gorilla and to have frightened belated wayfarers almost out of their wits in various parts of the county. While it is believed by most persons that the whole thing is a practical joke on the part of some one who is literally making a monkey out of himself, still many of the more timid class are thoroughly alarmed and fully believe all the tales that are told about the mysterious creature.

Those professing to have seen the wonderful animal, assert that it sometimes goes upright like a man and then dashes along on all fours with marvellous speed, maintaining a queer galloping gait. They furthermore feel certain that it has a coat of dark hair, but that is not considered remarkable, as the weather is cool. Their stories of how they almost encountered the strange beast have been so thrilling that many of the negroes in the county cannot be induced to pass the spots where it is said to have been seen. Others have purchased pistols and go about armed, fully resolved to sell their lives dearly should they encounter the mythical monster in any of its hypothetical haunts.

Others take the thing seriously without being unduly alarmed and they try to explain the matter. That it is an ape escaped from some zoological col-



From the Trees He Terrifies Passers by.

lection is the most commonly accepted theory. This was strengthened by a rumor that the authorities of the Zoological Gardens of Philadelphia were out looking for a lost Simian in Delaware county. But a telephone message to the zoo exploded the story. All the Philadelphia monkeys are safe in their cages. Their keeper respectfully suggested that the animal down by Darby is probably a monkey of native Delaware county stock.

Nevertheless, several persons in Springfield township are so convinced that there is a strange animal prowling about that they have set traps for it. Frank Carr is one of them, and he set a number of traps in an enclosure in the rear of his house near some woods where the reputed creature was reported to have been seen. It is now stated that the traps were found broken, the bait devoured and all evidences on hand of a struggle made by some animal.

The practical joker who is working the scare, if such is the case, has succeeded to an extent which may work his own harm. For there are a number of Delaware county citizens who, while not getting in hysterics about the matter, have quietly placed big guns in their hip pockets and are waiting for a chance to pot anything that looks like a baboon.

Living Man Food For Rats.

New York.—Carl Hammond, 60 years old, who has had no home for a third of a century, was rescued from a living death which he had endured for seven days by some children and Policeman Stull of the Glendale police station, Long Island City. He went to sleep in an ice house on a picnic ground a week ago. When he awoke the following day he found himself locked in. It was impossible for him to break out or to make himself heard. Hunger and thirst and cold nearly drove him mad. Then rats began to feed on him. They practically ate the flesh from his fingers and his neck and would have eaten his whole body had it not been for his clothes. When discovered he had about given up the unequal struggle and was mumbling to himself: "Let 'em eat me; eat poor old Hammond, the old worthless tramp." The officer took the starving man out and gave him water and food. He may recover.

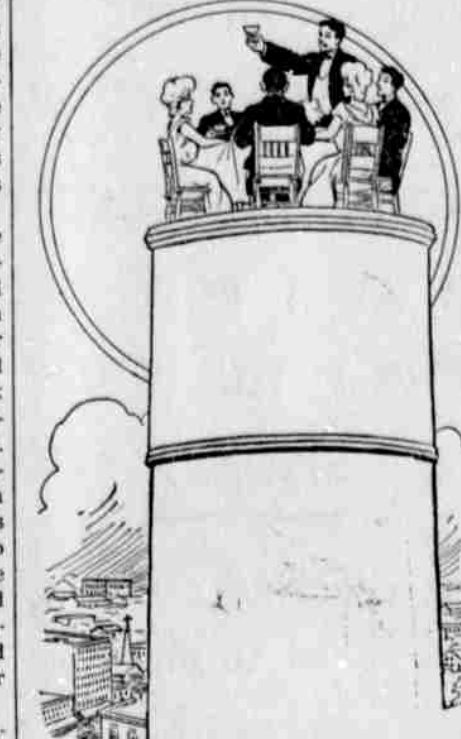
GIRL SERVES DINNER ON LOFTY SMOKESTACK.

Illinois Young Woman Entertains Guests at Unique Banquet 200 Feet in Air.

Bloomington, Ill.—On the dizzy top of the 200-foot concrete smokestack just completed by the Illinois traction system at Danville, eight persons sat down to an elaborate eight-course banquet served by Miss Marguerite Richey, one of the popular young women of Danville.

At the foot of the stack was gathered a crowd of several thousand people, greatly interested in the novel performance. From the top of the stack fluttered bunting and flags, while the banqueters appeared as mere pigmies.

The entire affair came about as a sort of a prank, the first of which was a dare to Miss Richey, made more in



They Dined High in the Air.

fun than in earnest, to climb the dizzy stack and serve a banquet to the party. She surprised Mr. Gursuch, the contractor, by accepting, and throughout the ordeal she did not waver. The ascent of the stack was made on the interior, a frail ladder nine inches wide being the means of attaining the top.

Mr. Gursuch ascended first with a rope tied about his waist, the other end of which encircled the slender girth of the young woman. Four times during the ascent Miss Richey was obliged to stop for breath and to recover from dizziness, but she clung firmly each time to the ladder until the attack had passed, and then bravely resumed the climb until the top was gained.

NIGHT IN RATTLESNAKE DEN

Traveler Falls Asleep in Abode of Poisonous Reptiles.

St. Paul.—John C. Busby, athlete, scientist and writer, has written to a friend of his in this city of a terrifying experience he had while storm-bound in a small hut near Holy Cross, in Dubuque county. Mr. Busby tells his story as follows:

"I left Farley, Iowa, on a walking tour to Buena Vista, 20 miles away. I had covered half the distance without incident when there came up a thunderstorm which compelled me to look about for shelter. Some little distance from the road I espied an old cabin and made for it. I reached it just as the storm broke, and finding it sheltered from the rain, entered and lying down upon the floor fell asleep.

"The night was far spent when I was awakened by the warning note of a rattlesnake. Soon I heard others, and I knew that if I made the slightest noise the reptiles would be upon me, so I lay breathless, as still as death itself. Presently a felt the slimy body of a snake pass across my chest. It made the cold chills chase themselves up and down my spine and I thought that surely I would be bitten. By an almost superhuman effort, however, I managed to control the muscles of my body until the snake had wriggled its way into the ground. Then with a terrific bound I literally leaped from the floor out of the opening of the cabin, there being no door to it.

"So overcome was I by my experience that I almost fell in a faint, but the beating of the rain soon revived me. With returning strength my curiosity was aroused, and going once more to the door of the hut I sprang my electric light and looked inside. The place was literally alive with snakes."

Buried Alive in Ship's Hold.

New York.—When the last bag of green coffee had been lowered into the hold of the lighter Lakewood at the Bush stores, Brooklyn, and the men who had received the cargo had reported it safely stored Capt. James Barr went below to satisfy himself that the load had been properly distributed and that the work was well done. The bags suddenly slid down on him and he was buried as under an avalanche. One leg and his ankle were broken. He managed to clear sufficient space to get air, but he could not extricate his body. His calls were not heard and he lay in his agony helpless for two days. Then someone heard his moans and he was rescued. There were only faint signs of life in his body. He was revived and may recover.

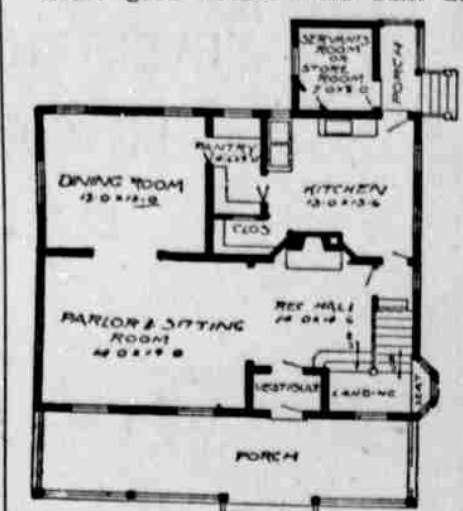
THE AMERICAN HOME

Wm. A. Radford Editor

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 124 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

The word colonial in house construction and also in furniture design is frequently used without a definite idea of its meaning when used in this connection. Properly speaking, a colonial house, or colonial furniture, dates back before the Declaration of Independence when this country was a dependency of Great Britain and classed as a colony or colonies.

Some good houses were built at



First Floor Plan.

that time by emigrants from England and other countries and the best ideas of building known at the time were incorporated in these houses. There is abundant evidence of the influence exerted on the minds of builders in those days by the free expanse of new territory. Some of these old time builders came from the narrow streets of old London and other large cities where narrow fronts and a dingy outlook was a rule even with the

time. But we have moved the hall a little to one side to make room for a longer sitting room in proportion to the size of the house. We have done away with the old fashioned drawing room and substituted a parlor and sitting room combined that offers a great deal more comfort because it tends to increase sociability and sociability is the keynote of entertaining.

We still have the wide hall with a fireplace in the far end but we haven't the cordwood to burn so we have reduced the size of the fireplace to fit the fuel that we are obliged to use. Then instead of building the servants' quarters outside in a separate building we have combined the back porch with a pleasant room that answers the same purpose.

We have improved on the old time dining room, pantry and kitchen because we have discovered that it takes a great many steps to travel a distance of twenty or thirty feet between the dining table and the kitchen range. We have cut down the number of these steps as much as possible and we have arranged the pantry with shelves for the dishes midway between the dining room and kitchen and we have a pot cupboard for the storage of necessary kitchen utensils as close and convenient as possible to the range.

During the interval between the old colonial days and the present time we have added a hot water heater to our kitchen range and connected it with a water pressure supply that carries hot water to the bath room as well as to the kitchen sink.

Our modern bath rooms effect a great saving in perfumery bills. When hot water was scarce and bath rooms were the exception rather than the rule the scent bottles and sachet bags were a necessary accompaniment of the toilet. Our hardheaded, practical, inventive geniuses and mechanics probably had no intention of putting the scent makers out of business but they are responsible for the change whether they intended to or not.



better and more expensive dwellings.

A broad front and square rooms, with a wide hall in the center was the elegant plan adopted by the more generous hearted entertainers of colonial days. They could afford to be prodigal in the expenditure of space because they had left congestion behind them and the influence of their new environment had suggested broadened lines in regard to house room as well as the affairs of the state.

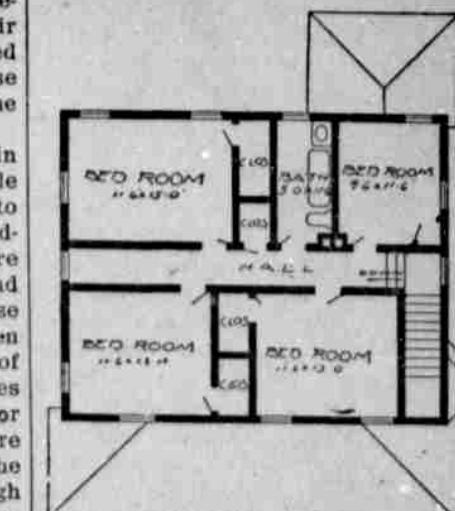
Many ideas have since resulted in the modification of this commendable style of house building. But down to the present time we have many admirers of the old fashioned square house with a parlor on one side and a drawing room on the other. These old houses had a broad hall, often ten or twelve feet wide, in the center of the house. This great hall sometimes was furnished with a big brick or stone fireplace in the far end where cordwood sticks were burned and the warmth from the fire diffused through the open stairway to the rooms above.

It is easy to imagine the cordial reception the guests received on entering the wide thick-paneled front door encased in a heavy frame of timbers. There was a heavy sash with its several lights of glass on either side of the door frame sometimes reaching nearly to the floor and generally there was a long transom window above. The heavy oaken door was furnished with a big brass knocker and an immense lock with a key nearly a foot long, but the big heavy doors opened easily and quickly in response to the clatter of the big brass knocker because even strangers were welcome and friends were received with genuine cordiality if not affection.

Some of these old colonial houses were built with timbers much larger and placed closer together than is now customary in building our largest barns or warehouses.

Through all the intervening years we have retained the general style of these commodious old colonial houses. The one given on this page has the old style of roof, the square proportions and the general air of breadth, practically the same as the most approved house in George Washington's AMERICAN HOME—2157.

Because of the light construction of this house it is less expensive even in these days of high prices than a similar house constructed a hundred years ago. With all improvements a house built after this plan, twenty-eight by thirty feet, may be built



Second Floor Plan.

complete with heating apparatus and plumbing in the smaller cities and country places for about \$2,800.

Our Pet Slang.

The noted foreigner was sorely puzzled.

"Tell me of ze American language. Et ces so queer. Ze conductor on ze street car told me to skidoo! What does skidoo mean, kind gentleman?" "Skidoo? Oh, that means 23."

"Twenty-three? And what does that mean?" "Why, beat it."

"Beat eet? How extraordinary! What does—or—beat eet mean?"

"Why, vamoose."

"By the shade of Napoleon! And what does vamoose mean?"

"Fade away! To the woods for yours! Are you on? Why, they'll hand you a lemon. They—"

But the noted foreigner had fled.

But It's Not Fetic.

Some slanderer of womankind has discovered that Minne-ja-jah is the correct spelling of the famous Indian maiden's name—Tacoma Ledger.