



AMUSEMENTS FOR CHILDREN.

The new kind of toys, a reaction against the rather foolish Teddy bear, promise well, both as to the entertainment they furnish the child and their educational value. Indeed, in the eyes of the progressive-minded, it is the educational side of the matter only that is looked at. But that does not matter as long as a good time is insured. Children are always willing to have what they want, if they don't know it. The ordinary child does not indeed need inducements to learn its Mother Goose rhymes, but surely a nursery whose wall are adorned with pretty-colored prints, depicting the adventures of "The Wise Man of Gotham," "The Man Clothed All in Leather" or "Little Jack Horner," each with its explanatory verse beneath is made more attractive. How delightful on a stormy day are the books where children can point to their hearts content or copy pictures by cutting out colored papers to make pictures either "out of one's head," if one has imagination, or like simple illustrations in books. There are also cardboard furniture, colored most delightfully, that can be cut out of or put together by small fingers. By the way, are the paper dolls quite out of fashion? They once were very dear to the hearts of little girls; now they are never mentioned. Arts and crafts come into play in the way of diversions for little folk. There are little looms now to be had, which cost but a trifle, and are yet large enough to make it possible to weave rugs, covers, spreads and carpets for doll-houses, and it is more fun than stringing beads. And stringing beads has by no means gone out of fashion, neither have the old-fashioned amusements, such as mud-pies, make-believe tea-parties and other diversions.—Springfield Republican.

THE LADY OF THE SUIT-CASE.

Mrs. McAllister, of Florida, going through a two months' tour of Europe with only a small suit-case for luggage, furnishes a fresh and pertinent example of what a woman can do when she will. She has beaten all the guide-books on a point of practical, personal interest. Content is justly hers, with satisfaction at her feat of turning custom-house scepticism to admiration.

This Florida traveller set about her purpose without ostentation. She offered to the women's club of Miami no preliminary resolutions favoring the one-skirt-and-one-hat idea in connection with "the grand tour." She brought before the State Federation of Women's Clubs no trumpet-sounding declaration of equal rights with men to the comforts of trunkless tripping. In her own determined way she set out as the woman going to see, not to be seen, and the globe-trotting honors of the hour are hers.

There are thirteen items in the table of contents of Mrs. McAllister's suit-case. A lucky number, the resultant of a rational process of elimination. "What shall I wear?" asks the ordinary woman, planning for Europe. "What can I do without?" asked the tourist from Florida, and everything she omitted was gain save to the luggage-transfer companies.

This single-suit-case tour of Europe is a longer step toward the emancipation of a sex than is the mobbing of Commons or clamor from a cart in Union Square. Courage to defy the unwritten canons of first-cabin society is in itself almost a qualification for the suffrage.—New York World.

FASHION NOTES.

Gray is a favorite color in millinery, and is found combined with many hues.

Have you ever thought of using a set of handsome shirt waist pins to fasten your long vells?

The popular soutache braiding is done either in the simple back stitch by hand or on the machine.

Topaz and amethyst are the favorite colors this season, but nothing is more fashionable than the pearl ones which are linked together with tiny brilliants.

Ribbon girdles are quite out of date, they having been supplanted by the wide soft silk sash with long fringed ends, tied on the side, two knots, one at the waist line and one half way down the skirt.

Suede leather with a conventionalized cut-work design through which shows the contrasting color of the silken lining makes a dainty bag in which to carry handkerchief and purse.

A last season's dinner gown takes an up-to-date appearance by adding a jacket of all-over lace cut on graceful lines and finished with a binding of satin.

Such short sleeves as appear on the new gowns this season are in the nature of oversleeves and are left open to display close shirred undersleeves of some transparent material.

Quantities of white soutache interspersed with black silk balls trim a stunning gown of white. Accessories, sash, hat, etc., are black.

The very dark new shades of silk and velvet are almost as effective on light gowns as the touches of black and strike an entirely new note.

Dainty jabots are quickly made by hemming a rather coarse net by running in and out with a very narrow ribbon of color, then laying the net in a full box plait.

DEDICATES LIFE

TO EVANGELISM.

Miss Jennie Smith, the well known railroad evangelist, who conducted a series of tent meetings in Richmond, Va., has a history full of unique and unusual incidents. For ten years she was an invalid, unable to move without assistance. Notwithstanding her helpless condition, she spent a large part of her time traveling from place to place. Having relatives and friends broadly scattered throughout the country, she frequently made long journeys on trains, coming in contact with many train operatives. As she could not rely upon her own strength to insure her against the inconveniences and dangers of travel, she necessarily looked to the men in charge of trains for aid. She says they were very kind to her, handling her cot or wheel chair always with the utmost tenderness, and paying her every other attention which a helpless traveler could need.

As a result of their kindness, she became very strongly attached to railroad men, and lived with the almost single hope that she might some day repay them for the service. "Then," she said, "after spending a whole night in prayer, my affliction was removed in the twinkling of an eye."

From that time she began the work in which she is now engaged. For the last 15 years, with whatever bodily discomforts and hardships she has gone from ocean to ocean working in the interests of railroad men.—New Haven Register.

Weather Signs.

In wet or stormy weather cats will wash behind their ears, dogs scratch the ground, moles build their little mounds of earth, bats fly about in a restless manner and penetrate into the houses. When the skylark sings and the cock crows earlier than usual it is a sign that a storm is brewing. At such a time, too, rooks and ravens utter their hoarse cries, geese and ducks are agitated, and swallows fly low because the insects on which they live are nearer the earth.—London Globe.



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