

FASHIONS AT THE OPERA.

Daisy May Describes
The Latest
Fads of Dress
And Millinery In
New York

DEAR DOROTHY—No doubt your country house does look quite like a "baquet hall deserted" with all your guests gone, and you feel the need of a gossip letter to cheer your drooping spirits this week, so I will drop a few lines to you, though I have no time to write more than a few lines. I have been thinking of you a great deal lately, and I hope you are all well. I have been thinking of you a great deal lately, and I hope you are all well. I have been thinking of you a great deal lately, and I hope you are all well.

is being felt, for among the sketchbooks of the smart shops I noted foulards (to which material she is especially partial) played a conspicuous part, and those big muslin fichus which help make a woman so bewitchingly womanly are draped about the shoulders in a variety of ways on the new models, bespeaking their return. These probably owe their origin to Calve's artistic handling of



THE NEW PLAID SKIRTS.

"Of paramount importance, of course, are the coming skirts. It is surely the survival of the fittest, for the plaid ones are so charmingly constructed that every woman can be pleased, while such was not the fact with the habit back ones."

on the Oceanic and is quite enthusiastic about Jean de Reszke's bijou theater, which is constructed as an annex to his house in Paris, where he proposes to entertain his guests with private exhibitions of his vocal and dramatic powers. It is built to accommodate some 60 persons and is on a similar line to a theater that Patti has included in the structure at Craig-y-Nos in Wales, except that Patti's is five times the size of De Reszke's. Mrs. George Gould was of the party who listened, and it was interesting to note the evident pleasure with which she heard of individual undertakings to perpetuate a love for the stage. Her own success, so recently achieved at Georgian Court, has been a source of delight to herself and friends and is held responsible for the "private theatrical" fad which permeates polite society.

the crape shawl which outlines her pretty neck and bare bosom as Carmen. Even the fringe is present, and the newest neck doings of this kind are edged with finest stilet threads. Strictly speaking, the big muslin fichus with wide frills of lace or chiffon refurbish admirably and are a pretty addition to even a plain house gown, the rigidity of which may be relieved by tying one over the shoulder and leaving the dress slightly open at the throat.

Among the pretty costumes worn recently at a studio tea by a vivacious southern girl was a dark blue china silk, with odd, geometrical figures in white scattered over it, the skirt finished with a heavy band of white satin. Over the plain waist a fine white silk muslin fichu, with a double ruffle around it, was tied in a loose knot midway between the throat and waist line, with the long ends passing under the arms and finished at the back of the belt with a jaunty bow and ends. A white satin stock, fastened with a sapphire and diamond brooch, long black suede gloves and a great, black picture hat covered with black ostrich feathers and a bunch of pink roses at the back completed a lovely toilet that attracted attention and admiration.

There was another frock worn by the most captivating of actresses, a description of which may suggest an idea for your new Persian bordered mousseline robe of which you speak. Instead of lace use the border and omit silk trimmings entirely. The dress in ques-

tion was of the new canvas made over an odd shade of green silk, five tiny ruffles edging the wide, full skirt and two of exquisite yellow lace. The bodice was shirred to form a yoke; the sleeves were tight and long—abnormally so—with a fall of the lace reaching to the finger tips. Instead of a belt was an old fashioned "girdle" of the silk, diamond shaped, laced up the back and ending at the lower point with loops and long ends of green ribbon. Folds of the silk formed a collar band, over which she wore many strings of pearls clasped close. This was only one instance of the jewel craze which is rampant. Brooches decorated the fronts of bodices in the same manner that prize medals are worn by Creedmoor's military crack shots.

As for fashions—that is, for immediate needs—well, fashion is quite at a standstill. If a woman has a beautiful fur coat for out of doors and an opera cloak—something magnificent in velvet or satin, with lace and furs—she always seems to be just right.

Don't change the style of your corset. Madame tells me that there is nothing very different in figures. Great modistes are building into their dresses elab-

tan ladies' cloth. Plaits are laid yoke deep both on bodice and skirt, while a plaited founce borders the long skirt, and the semibishop sleeves are plaited both top and bottom.

Forgetting frocks for a moment and remembering only your superstitious self, a very curious story is told in his son's delightful "Life of Sir John Mills," which will make many a worthy goose like yourself more superstitious than ever. One day they sat down at table at Murthly. When one of the ladies began to tremble, Sir John quietly asked his son to dine in another room, which he very courteously did. When dinner was over, nobody seemed anxious to rise first, and Matthew Arnold, who was one of the guests, suggested that he and two stalwart undergraduates should get up simultaneously. The three men did so, and within a year each one of them was dead—Arnold by heart disease, one of the lads by suicide and the other by drowning.

It is a creepy tale, the more so that it, or whatever it is that looks after these matters, did not play the game, for Mr. Mills, who was the first to leave the table, ought, by the rules, to have been the victim. Perhaps he was let off in consideration of the discomfort of having to dine in the drawing room.

Jack has given me a new idea for the chapel fair. He says it would be monstrously entertaining and profitable to have a booth where shoes were blackened, with a bevy of young girls impersonating the Parisian femmes who polish monsieur's shoes. The women

FICKLE FASHION TURNS TO THE AUTOMOBILE

AFTER the fuss and flutter and fine feathers of the equine show comes the horse show without horses, which has just opened in New York. Madison Square Garden is the scene of this remarkable exhibition. It is an innovation that will charm Mother Shipton, can she view from Elysium the fulfillment of her prophecy that carriages would run without horses. In her day the only auto vehicle was the midnight broomstick, on which aged dames of eccentric reputation were supposedly accustomed to take midnight rides. In this year of grace 1900 the witch's method of transportation, while similar in principle to that now the fact, is somewhat different in form. The autocrat boasts in charming passenger in the fair damsel who lounges upon its cushions, and she exercises a no less potent influence, although a more genial one, than did the sorceress who rode the aerial broomstick.

The show is a fashionable affair—that goes without saying when one considers that the American Automobile club includes some of the wealthiest and smartest people in the larger cities of the country. Nine hundred dollars is the cost of a simple carriage, a price that is practically prohibitive, except for a certain fortunate class. They are more automobiles in use in New York than anywhere else, although Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and the intermediate large cities have their share. For the reason that there are more automobiles in the east than in the west the national automobile show is held in New York.

The boxes and other seats will be filled every day with the beauty and fashion of Manhattan as well as with interested visitors from other places. Among the well known folks interested in automobile riding are Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, the first society woman to make use of it and who helped to introduce the automobile at Newport; Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, who gave a unique automobile party at her Newport home during the summer; Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, who was Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt; Mrs. Herman Oelrichs, Miss Gerry, Miss Daisy Post and Mrs. John Drexel. These are a few among the New York society women who have been ardent automobilists.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont and Mrs. Fish were the first women to attempt automobile riding in America. In the fall of 1899 Mrs. Belmont organized the famous automobile parade at Newport. In this all the cottagers owning automatic vehicles appeared in flower acc-

ented carriages and contested for the prize to be awarded for the most expert driving and the handsomest decorations. The prize for the former was awarded to Mr. Stuyvesant Le Roy; for the latter to Mrs. Herman Oelrichs. Some of the same carriages seen in the Newport parade are to be exhibited at the automobile show decorated very much as they were on that eventful occasion. Mrs. Belmont, who owns one of the handsomest and best appointed automobiles in the country, had been other than hostess on parade day, would probably have carried off the prize for the best decorations. Her carriage was covered with flowers and supplied with a long pole to which were harnessed giant butterflies.

The number of young men of society interested in the show indicates that automobile driving is the most fashionable sport for the time being. Mr. Alfred Vanderbilt and his cousin, Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., are among the most ardent chauffeurs. In acquiring complete control of their vehicles they encountered no end of narrow escapes, as both are inclined to be as daring as though their lives were not worth a copper penny apiece instead of a hundred million. Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt have shown their devotion to the sport by taking an automobile trip through France and are not among those who will be seen at the show.

At the show, where some exhibitions of expert skill in managing machines are to be made, automobile red is the correct color for gowns. This shade is combined with red or black and makes a very effective costume. Automobile red is a dull red or maroon supposed to be particularly serviceable in disguising the presence of dust. Long coats of the sack order are much favored by ardent automobilists. In Paris the most elaborate costumes are worn by women who ride the autocar, but in this country the extravagances of Parisian taste are tempered by admiration for sedate English tailor made effects. Therefore, the hats worn here are usually some simple, serviceable affairs, upon which wind and rain will have little effect. All sorts of elaborate toilets are correct, and many fine toilets will be seen before the door closes on the exhibition.

Among the leading Americans interested in the sport of automobile riding, John Brisson Walker has distinguished himself by his generosity in presenting a country club at Irvington for the use of the American Automobile club. Mr. Walker rides a great deal and is a believer in the steam automobile. At Irvington and on Riverside drive he

may be frequently seen in a light run-about apparently enjoying himself immensely. Mr. P. A. B. Widener, the railroad magnate of Philadelphia, is a believer in the automobile and has substituted one for his carriage. T. L. Woodruff, the lieutenant governor of New York, takes part of his recreation in driving an electric runabout. Mr. Richard Croker and his son are both fond of using their steam automobiles. Mr. Winslow E. Busby and Mr. A. L. Barbour and Mr. Whitney Lyon are among those frequently seen on the drives of New York in their own auto carriages.

In Chicago the automobile craze is quite as decided as in New York. Mrs. Ogden Armour, Mrs. P. D. Armour, Jr., and the Princess Engalitchoff are among Chicago automobilists of note. According to experts at the show the phaeton is the correct conveyance for use in driving in the morning hours. The brougham is used for shopping, for going to the opera or to evening parties or on bad days, while the victoria is the correct carriage for making calls or for a spin along the avenue.

One of the charms of the auto carriage is its privacy; the coachman and footman may be temporarily dispensed with, so that there is no embarrassment from curious-eyed lookers when one goes out to ride with a friend or one's own sex into whose ears there may be many a tale of woe to be poured.

Some facts which the present exhibition may demonstrate are that the cost of an automobile is not greater than that of a good carriage and fine pair of horses; that the auto carriage may be so easily managed that a child can be entrusted with one as safely as with a bicycle. At present there are only about 1,500 automobiles in this country, but orders for them have been pouring in so fast that the factories are working night and day to supply the demand. For long distance runs the gasoline carriage seems to be the best, as enough fuel can be carried to replenish the fire for a 20 mile spin. The electric carriages must be freshly supplied with electricity every 25 miles.

One noticeable thing about the automobile craze is the difficulty to be met with in finding suitable words to express the various phases of the fad. The carriages are called by a dozen names, any one of which is as expressive as another. They are termed autocars, autos, autocars, teuf teufs, automobiles, autobains and a dozen other names, none of which is very convenient or expressive. Likewise the person who propels the carriage is spoken of as the automobilist, the chauffeur, etc. Every one is trying to coin new phrases, and at the show it is only the old automobile fiend who can use the numerous terms with dispatch and propriety. ELLA MATHIESSEN.

COLLEGES FOUNDED BY WOMEN.

In an article on the admission of women to the Cambridge college degrees Miss Helen Gladstone refers to the fact that no less than six Cambridge colleges were founded by women for the benefit of men—Christ's and St. John's by Margaret, countess of Richmond; Sidney Sussex by Lady Francis Sidney, countess of Sussex; Clair by Elizabeth de Burgh, countess of Clare; Pembroke by Marie de St. Paul, countess of Pembroke, and Queen by Queen Margaret of Anjou.

AMERICAN NURSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.



Trained American nurses are in charge of the hospital ship Maine, which the American women in London have sent to South Africa to aid wounded British soldiers. The superintendent of the nurses is Miss M. E. Hibbard, who was an inspector of nurses in this country before she went to England. Among the nurses are Miss Ludenka of Georgia, who is a graduate of the Philadelphia Hospital Training School For Nurses; Miss Manley, who was assistant superintendent of the Pennsylvania hospital and who received her training in Philadelphia; Miss McPherson of Maryland, who received her training in the Providence (R. I.) Hospital Training School For Nurses; and Miss McVean of the Bellevue hospital alumni, whose home is in Scottsville, N. Y. During their stay in England the nurses were entertained by the management of the Royal Palace hotel free of charge, the English public seeming determined to show every possible attention to them. The queen received them at Windsor, and altogether they received enough attention to turn the heads of less sensible women. All the nurses belong to the Red Cross society and served in the Spanish-American war, so that their experience should make them doubly valuable. The names of the nurses in the order to which they belong are Sister Virginia, Sister Ruth, Sister Margaret and Sister Sarah.

bootblacks of Paris wear a peculiar uniform, suggesting that of the Sisters of Mercy, but the resemblance ends there, for their manners are most coquettish and quite destroy all religious associations. They work with gloved hands and are dexterous and wonderfully neat at their calling. It seems to me the plan would work well, and the girls could dress as demurely as the Salvation Army lassies and have heaps of fun at the expense of our grand seigneurs. What think you of it?

All specimens the dressmaking craft of England send to us now savor of war, and even we talk of reinforcements being necessary in our wardrobes and then go out and order clothes that our tailors and milliners, in their turn, cannot free from the dominating influence. I put it down entirely to this cause that caps are now being considered an item of headgear apart from hats and toques and that the hussar model is already a favorite one to order. A cherry red suit, with trimmings of black braid done in "frogs," worn with a little cap of the correct pattern, makes a charming skating dress.

I shall be ready to welcome you next Saturday and will be glad of an opportunity to look at outdoor clothes and help you select your athletic garb, which I shall soon make the subject of pen and pencil. Affectionately,

Daisy May
New York.

HOW LADIES WALK IN PARIS.

Clever Parisians have adapted their mode of walking to the exigencies of dress. It is slow, with very short steps, though there is a sort of prance associated with it; but a skirt that rests on the ground both back and front is unsuited for walking—indeed to any sort of exercise. It is destined for ornament, not use.

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.

A beautiful tribute to a woman was expressed in the will of Mr. Alexander P. Jackson, late of Frankford avenue, Philadelphia. In speaking of his wife in his will, he said that "a more devoted, truthful and loving wife never walked the face of God's green earth."

The Empress Frederick of Germany owns a very curious little tea service. The tray is made of an old Persian half-penny basket out. The teapot was once a German farthing, and the tiny cups are made from coins of different German principalities.

Carmen Sylva, queen of Roumania, first met her future husband, Prince Charles of Hohenzollern, in a somewhat unceremonious manner. One day when in her teens, running quickly down stairs, her majesty stumbled and was caught by a gentleman passing. The stranger was no other than Prince Charles.

Mrs. Bland, widow of Congressman R. P. Bland, is spending the winter in St. Louis, where she is assisting in the preparation of a biography of her husband.

Ann Ruth Seneca, an Indian princess, is studying medicine at the Medical

Chirurgical hospital in Philadelphia. She took a classical course in the Carlisle Indian school, where she developed her love for nursing the sick. Two of her brothers were on the Carlisle football team. One of them was killed recently by a train while returning from a game.

Miss Anne Wallace of Atlanta is the librarian of the Carnegie public library recently gave \$25,000 more to the institution, and it has been said that the gift was in appreciation of her successful management.

A copy of Queen Victoria's "Leaves From the Journal of Our Life In the

Highlands" presented by her majesty to Charles Dickens was recently sold at auction in London for \$500.

Out of the \$525,000,000 over which 150 women in England have exercised testamentary powers during the last eight years, \$12,480,000 has been bequeathed to charity.

Chinese women have recently awakened to the fact that the sewing machine is a necessary household implement. A shipment of sewing machines, valued at \$100,750, was recently sent by an American firm to China.

In Scotland desertion for four years is sufficient grounds for a divorce by Scotch law, although in England deser-

tion alone would not enable either party to obtain a decree of divorce, but only one of judicial separation, which, of course, would not carry with it the privilege of remarriage.

Mrs. Alice N. Lincoln has been chosen chairman pro tem. of the board of trustees of the pauper institutions of Boston in the place of Professor Sedgwick, resigned. She will serve till next April.

The Princess of Wales has a little house built in a cozy nook of the grounds at Sandringham. She is very devoted to this spot, and when the house is full of guests her royal highness frequently goes there for after-

noon tea with a chosen few to whom she personally dispenses the cheering cup. This summer house is known as the Princess's Folly.

Miss Georgiana Poue, sister of the undersecretary of Canada, who is head of the staff nurses in the Canadian contingent sent to South Africa, is a graduate of Bellevue hospital nursing school, New York.

The young queen of Holland has a decided fondness for pretty clothes. A large assortment of dress goods was sent to the palace not long ago, and her mother proceeded to choose for the queen some alpaca and plain material, but Queen Wilhelmina flatly refused to

LIBRARY OF TINY VOLUMES.

The largest library of small books in the world belongs to a Frenchman, who boasts that he can pack 700 of his pocket editions in a single portmanteau.