KOREA'S NEW WOMEN HOW THEY ARE ADVANCING FROM

(Special Correspondence, EOUL, 1909 .- The empress of Korea rode yesterday in an open carriage through the streets of Seoul. She was on her way from one of her palaces to another. She sat beside the emperor on the back seat. The sun shone bright, her face was unveiled, and all the world could see. There were thousands of men upon the streets at the time. They formed long lines of white against the black huts. With their big hats and long gowns, their vellow faces were turned straight toward her majesty and their almond eyes almost popped out in surprise. Such an event would mean little in any European country. It marks one of the most striking changes that are going on in Korea. It indicates that the new woman is on the ground with the new woman is on the ground with both feet, and that from now on the sex will gradually make its way upward out of its present state of degradation. Until now, no man outside the emper-or and the eunuchs of the palace has even seen the features of Korean fe-male royalty. When I was here 20 years ago, a young American girl had just come out to act as physician to the queen. She was the first woman doctor ever known in Korea, and her majesty awalted her coming rather doctor ever known in Korea, and her majesty awalted her coming rather than have the foreign medical mission-aries, who were at that time all men, examine her. When the latter were called into consultation they were not allowed to see the queen, and when they felt her pulse her hand was thrust through a screen and nothing else

WHERE THE LADIES STAYED AT HOME.

HOME. The Korean women are not gada-bouts. Until now all those of the high and middle classes have been more se-cluded than the females of the Mo-hemmedian harems. They have quar-ters of their own, which are in the backs of the houses or in special estab-lishments far off from those of the men. Some of the noblest have never been outside their own compounds, and of the middle classes very few go out to-day except in closed chairs. In the nast it has been a crime for a man to past it has been a crime for a man to lay his hands on a woman outside his own family, and any man who looked over the wall of a garden to see the women within was sure to be punished. The husband has had absolute power over his wife and concubines. They have been bound to him by fetters of iron, and today have practically no rights which he has to respect. Indeed, the 10.000,000 women who inhabit this country are still, as far as the laws and the customs which now prevail go practically slaves. I am told that many of them have such strength of character that they rule their homes. Never-theless, the fact remains that the men can beat and mutilate them with little fear of the law.

THE NEW WOMAN APPEARS.

All this has been so for ages, and the arrival of the new woman is therefore the more striking. One sees indica-tions of changes everywhere, both in city and country. When I first came here the common women and slave girls working in the fields carried girls working in the fields carried cloaks with them to shield their faces from the men. Some of them turned their backs and ran away as I ap-proached. On the streets of Seoul those who came out wore green cloaks even their backs which they held cloaks over their heads, which they held close together in front of their faces, leav-ing only a crack for one eye. These cloaks had flat, well ironed sleeves which were bordered with white. The sleeves were merely pasted into the garments and were not intended for the arms to go through. The cloaks them-selves were so thin as to be of no value for warmth, and they were used only as vells. Today the common vame use the same sort of cloak, but i y are not held tightly, and one can ing as veils. Today the common have no idea of what the proper lor-yomen use the same sort of cloak, but i by are not held tightly, and one can be a score of female faces on any of the main streets during any working hour of the day. These street women hour of the day. These street whany belong to the laboring classes. Many of them are slaves and they are as a sub howely dirty and frowsy. The dress was properly.



KOREAN WOMAN AND HER CHAIR.

Photographed for the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

nobility or the upper classes. She is usually the daughter of some yangban who is pro-Japanese or is auxious to ape foreign ways. Many of these gen-tlemen now dress in European clothes and not a few are anxious to have their wives do likewise. They see the Japa-nese and European ladles going about ness and European ladies going about unveiled and observe how they are treated by their husbands as a result and they allow their wives to copy these foreign examples. I attended a court garden party the other day at which many of the royal family were uncent. There ware saveral princes present. There were several princes relatives of the emperor, all of his imperial majestys cabinet ministers, the high Japanese officials and others. The foreigners brought their wives and they wore, of course, European costumes. The Japanese ladies were dressed in beautiful kimonos. There were in addition about a half dozen Korean la-dies, some of whom wore European dress and the others Korean gowns. such women belong to the advance guard of the new movement. They go out on the streets with their husbands, and even ride in carriages or jinriki-shas, always creating a sensation among the natives when they do so. The older men cannot realize that a good wo-man who has been raised a Korean would do such a thing, and many of them consider the morality of the new woman questionable, to say the least.

GIRLS WITH DIAPHONOUS SKIRTS. As to the clothes the new woman wears, these at the present time are strange to an extreme. The Koreans have no idea of what the proper for-

made, but under it there was almost nothing. The woman had petilcoats, which reached only to her knee, so that her pipe-stem legs, clad in black stockings, could be plainly seen. She had on heavy cowhide shoes and a hat of the vintage of a dozen years ago. of the vintage of a dozen years ago. The latter was of dingy straw, trimmed with motheaten roses, which hung down almost to her shoulders. The combi-nation was so strange that the foreign before could be dealer. ladies could hardly keep their faces straight as she moved about among Nevertheless, she was a woman them. of wealth, and money had been no ob-ject to her in securing the proper dress. I doubt not she considered herself more fashionably attired than any other lady present.

Such things occur from ignorance as to what the foreign costume is, and the shopkeepers here are taking ad-vantage of the fact that the women do not know. They have for sale a mis-cellaneous outfit of bygone clothing brought from Shanghai and other parts of the east. The hats are of all shapes and styles and the dress goods are of every outrageous description. These things are bought by Korean parents for their little children who are going to school, quite a number of whom are now wearing foreign dress and almost all of whom have foreign hats. I at-tended an athletic exhibition of the girls of the public schools the other day. It was held in the grounds of the Mulberry palace and about 500 girls with their teachers were present. They were all dressed in school uniforms, Korean in and were indescribably ugly.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOLS. schools which have been estab-

the government under the direction of port them. The Japanese, however, the Japanese and in addition many considered the amount too liberal and, the Japanese, and in addition many private schools. At this athletic exhibition the girls ranged in age from 6 to ls, and they went through their exer-cises in sight of an invited crowd of Koreans of both sexes. Many of them Koreans of both sexcs. Many of them came from well-to-do families, and their sisters, cousins and aunts were present to see them. The most of these had cloaks of vells of some kind or other over their faces, but the girls themselves had no such covering and there even without shame they exercised without shame.

In the past the women of Korea have been almost entirely uneducated, and today those of the higher class are just beginning to send their children to school. The lower and middle class women have sent their children to the women have sent their children to the mission schools for a number of years, and for this reason many of the teach-ers in the girls' schools, which contain the children of the nobility as well as other girls, are of the lower classes. This is not so of the higher school, founded by Lady Om for girls of the upper crust. It is composed of daugh-ters of the yangban or nobles. There is also a school for girls established by this same consert of the retired emperthis same consort of the retired emper-or, which has only the daughters of the middle class. Both schools are giving a foreign education to their pupils and are doing great good.

ABOUT LADY OM.

ABOUT LADY OM. Just here I wish to say a few words about Lady Om. Until the abdication of the emperor in 1907 she was the leading lady of this land, and as such did much for her sex. While not the empress by actual marriage, she was practically so to all intents and pur-poses. She is the old emperor's fav-orite concubine, or consort, as she is called by the Japanese. I under-stand his majesty is true to her, and that she allows no others of the ladies-in-waiting about the court to come near him. She is the mother of the crown prince, who is now being edu-cated in Japan, and as such she will probably maintain her influence even after that of the old emperor has become less than it is now. Lady Om came into the palace when she was a girl as one of the court women. One story states that she started in as a hairdresser, but this is denied. She is not pretty, but very clever, and the queen of Korea,

who was assassinated by the Japanese, took her up and made much of her. She liked her cleverness, and she also She liked her cleverness, and she also liked her homely appearance, as she thought that would be an obstacle to any love for her on the part of the king, who afterward became emperor. As the story goes, the king appre-clated cleverness as well as beauty. He cast sheep's eyes at Lady Om, notwithstanding the presence of her majesty, and, as a result, Lady Om had to flee for her life. She left the palace and remained away until after the queen was assassinated, and then came back to be the consort of his majesty. I do not know that she her-self had anything to do with the selecmalesty. I do not know that she her-self had anything to do with the selec-tion of the crown prince as the succes-sor of the present emperor of Korea, but I doubt not she aided in the manipbut I doubt not she aided in the manip-ulation. This boy is only 11 or 12 years of age, and he was chosen by Prince Ito over Prince Euiwha, who was an older son of the emperor by another mistress. Prince Euiwha is the young fellow who ran away from Korea to the United States and re-ceived some education there. He first went to school at Delaware, Ohio and afterward to a little academy at Salem, Va. He fully expected to be his father's successor, but Prince Ito has set him aside, and he is now living quietly here. The little prince, the son of Lady Om, is exceedingly bright and he will undoubtedly be the next emperor. As to Lady Om's schools, she estab-

dressed in school uniforms, Korean in looked as though they had been fished out of the ash barrels of the Bowery. They had flat crowns and broad brins but her funds and those of the emperor were then reduced and she has now barely enough for her necessities. Finding that she could not continue the sup-

as I understand it, they have cut down the allowance one-half, and are now devoting the remainder to the support of other schools established by the government. On top of all this there was a short rice crop last harvest, and altogether, the schools are in much need of more money.

THE SLAVE GIRLS OF KOREA.

As I have said, the new woman movement is just at its beginning. doubt if its members can be numbered by hundreds. There are certainly less than a thousand who have yet attempted to throw off the shackles of the old customs; and the remainder, numbering millions, are in the same condition that the sex has held for many generations the sex has held for many generations. The customs væry according to the class to which the girl belongs. Korea has a nobility, a middle class, common people and shves. All of the rich fam-illes own hereditary slaves, and the daughter of a slave is a slave girl in turn. In the past such slaves have been given away, and it is not long since they were sold. When the member of a familte dange offense family committed a grave offense against the government, the whole fam-ily of the guilty one was often reduced to slavery. This was the case with the ily of the guilty one was often reduced to slavery. This was the case with the wife and daughter of Kim-Ok-Tun, the rebel who was assassinated by order of the king of Shanghai some years ago. Quite a number of the singing girls are slaves, and as such they have been bought and sold. Today almost every Korean lady has her slaves who wait

Korean lady has her slaves who wait upon her and do her bidding. I under-stand that the slaves are usually well treated, and that most of them would not leave their mistresses if they could. HOW THE COURT LADIES DRESS.

Until just now it has been impossible for a foreign man to know anything about the dress of the high Korean lady for a foreign man to know informa-about the dress of the high Korean lady except from hearsay. I attended a garden party given by the Red Cross society in the grounds of one of the old palaces this afternoon at which sev-eral of the high ladies of the empress' court were present. Among them was a sister of her majesty. They appeared in their court gowns, with great gold pins studded with pearls in their hair and with gold badges of their rank over their foreheads. Each woman had on a short jacket of white or light blue silk, which reached only half way to her waist, and below this a very full skirt of dark blue silk gauze, which was fastened around the body under the arms and trailed upon the ground. As they raised them I could see their As they raised them I could see their stockings of padded cotton and their As they have a padded cotton and their low embroidered white or like shoes. They were bareheaded, and their jet black locks were put up in a knot which rested far down on the nape of the neck. They wore no veils nor face covering of any kind, and moved about among the people, interested in all the sights of the occasion. During the cele-bration the court ladies, who heretofore have been absolutely secluded, sat upon the platform, with the leading Korean and Japanese officials, representing her majesty the empress, and one of them even read a message from the empress to the assemblage. No one would have dreamed such a thing possible five years dreamed such a thing possible five years ago.

A KOREAN GIRL'S COSTUME.

The dress of the new woman will be ar more comfortable and more beautiful than that of the present. A Korean friend of mine has given me some of the details as to the costume of the

present. Says he: "The first thing a girl puts on is a divided skirt, consisting of a pair of very full drawers which fall in folds to emperor. As to Lady Om's schools, she estab-lished these some years ago, and has been supporting them out of her private purse. She had plenty of money up to the time the old emperor was retired, but her funds and those of the emperor were then reduced and she has now lean

skin an inch wide shows out under the shoulder blades when the woman bends over, and if she goes in the sun she may have a red stripe there. The drawers narrow as they fall to the feet, and are lost in great stockings of wad-ded white cotton, which make her small feet look five times as large as they are. They are more like boots than anything else, and they take the place of shoes and slippers at home. The bet-ter class houses are carpeted with mat-ting, and the women go about in stock-ing feet. Out of doors they wear low ing feet. Out of doors they wear low shoes with soles of oxhide or cloth. In addition to the divided skirt the In addition to the divided skirt the Korean woman has on a very full pair of white overpants, which reach from the arms to far below the knees, and over the whole a cloaklike gown tied at the front with a ribbon. This gar-ment is often of silk of bright colors. The younger women are fond of red, those of middle age like blue and many wear white. Most of the women have more or less jewelry. They wear hair-pins of gold, silver or amber as thick as one's little finger, and many have two gold or silver rings on the third finger of the right hand. They paint and powder, covering the face with white, except at the lips, which are red. They use India lnk to mark out the line of the eyebrows, and arch these in con-formity with the Chinese idea of Asiformity with the Chinese idea of Asi-atic beauty. This is supposed to be a curve like that of a line of swans flying through the sky, and if the hairs grow otherwise they are pulled out with tweezers until they approach the ideal. winter clothes of the better class of Korean women are sometimes of fun and quilted silk. Padded cotton is also used, the gowns being so made that they can be ripped apart for washing

SLAVERY TO FREEDOM.

Much paste and glue are employed in dressmaking, and many a woman these high-class circles would drop pieces if she were left out all night in the rain.

HOW KOREAN WOMEN LIVE. The new woman movement means that a great change is to come in the daily life of the Koreans. What with study, school going and calling, a new world is just beginning for these benighted mortals. The well bred wo nighted mortals. The well brea wo-man of today begins her life of seclu-sion at the age of seven and from then until her death she is practically con-fined to the house of her husband or parents. She is lucky, indeed, if she

has a little garden to walk about in. If she is very high class, she does not go out at all, or only in a closed box about three feet square, and not more than four feet in height. This is slung between poles. In bringing it to her between poles. In bringing it to her house the chair-bearers take it inside the yard, and then go away while she crawls in. The proper signal is given, they return and carry her to the home of a friend, leaving the box and going around the corner until she crawls out

Such visits are rare. The Korean lady rises with the sun

Such visits are rare. The Korean lady rises with the sun and after spending perhaps an hour on her toilet directs her slaves how to attend to the household. She keeps the accounts of the family and acts as mistress of the establishment. She may do a little embroidery or sewing herself, but outside this she has noth-ing to occupy her all day long. She usually sleeps on a mat on the floor and when she rises, if it is cold out-side, her feet rest on a warm sur-face, for her bedroom has flues under it and straw fires are started before daybreak. She sits down on the floor before a looking glass in making her toilet and eats from a little table eight or ten inches high. Her table furniture is composed of bowls of brass and a pair of chop sticks, and her food is largely rice, meats, fowl, fish and fruit. After eating, she usos her fingers in place of a tooth brush, washing out, her mouth with salt which she also rubs over her teeth. From Ogden, Salt Lake and points on 26, July 2, 3, 23 and 24, August 13 and 14, and September 10 and 11. Long limit and stops. Midland railway Write for full information and beau-tiful book of Colorado views. L. H. HARDING, Gen. Agent, Salt Lake City, Utah She takes frequent baths in the sum mer and on the whole is reasonably

THE NEW MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

skin an inch wide shows out under Today the million odd m permit.

permit. Today the million odd may riages which take place yearly are as barbarous as those of darkest Africa Children are often betrothed at birth and a seven-year-old girl may be may riages take place betweet in the may riages take place betweet is the children have reached the age of pupils of the first class in the high schools, and a girl is an old maid at eighteen at wenty. Mong the queer wedding custom to the gluing the bride's eyes shut so that she can see nothing, and keep ing them so for two or three days Another is that the bride will no speak to the groom for at least a week after the wedding, and a thick that a fight takes place between he triends and his on the way to the cere mony, and the one represented by the party defeated is considered unlucky. Neither bride nor groom see each other until they are married After has the grows older, or when her hus band is tired of her, be bridges one mong and has to submit. "Divores and she has to submit. "Divores and she has to submit. "Divores and she has to submit. "Divores are easy on the part of the husband but they are considered discoutable. are easy on the part of the husba are easy on the part of the husband, but they are considered disceptiable and domestic troubles usually result in adding a concubine or so to the establishment rather than shoving the old wife out into the

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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EXCURSION NORTH,

So far, the new woman belongs to the quito netting. The dress was properly

lished for girls are perhaps the most striking evidence of the new woman There are many of these. novement. some run by the missionaries, some by

ly for her school she made over certain rice lands which had been given to her from those be-longing to the crown, saying that their reversues would be enough to sup-

stead of the waist if the girl so wished. The waistband is very tight, and it comes high up the back. Above it and just meeting it is a little jacket with long sleeves. This is yellow, green, blue or white, and it is tied together with ribbons of the same color. The jacket is so short that a strip of bare



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Sealed bids on mason work, etc., re-Scaled bids on mason work, etc., re-quired in the erection of a four-room huliding on Fourteenth South and Main Street, Salt Lake County, Utah, will be received up to June 17, 1909, in the office of N. Edw. Liljenberg, architect, and by the Beard of Education of Granite School District, at 1900 South State St.