

GREAT CHINESE WOMEN.

Some Famous Predecessors of the Present Empress.

IN A country where women are such complete recluses as in China one would not expect to find any startling specimens of the new womanhood, tinged with the Flower Kingdom. Nevertheless by centuries the Christian missionaries have played leading parts in the history of a country held to be the most conservative and least progressive of any in the world.

One of the first recorded of the famous women of China, mentioned by every good Chinese with special reverence, and because of her good deeds called to receive divine honors, was the wife of the Emperor Hwang-ti, whose reign began about 263 B. C. Hwang-ti's wife was the daughter of a feudal chief. Mulberry trees are plentiful in China, and doubtless this observant woman in her girlhood often watched the silkworms in the branches industriously spinning their silken cocoons. When she became the wife of Hwang-ti, a man of intelligence, she began to experiment with the cocoons. The silk she had unwound and woven into a cloth, which has ever since been among the most prized of the world's materials for clothing. All over China groves of mulberry trees were laid out, and the cultivation of the silkworm became one of the great industries of the Chinese empire, which only the Hsing-ti, the great beauties of China have not been among its benefactors. If tradition is to be believed, Hwang-ti's wife, the chief sent to the emperor as a present his beautiful but unprincipled daughter. Before she entered his palace Kwei had at least been a brave warrior; he was a man of great physical strength and could twist bars of iron as if they were bamboo withes. But Kwei proved the Deltah of this Chinese Samson. War and the chase were forgotten; he became the slave of the young beauty, for whose pleasure he impoverished China in order to build for her great and splendid palaces. These were filled with dissolute people. Lakes of wine ornamented the palace garden, and dried meats were hung from the trees to feed the thousands who attended the wild orgies given there. The people, disgusted with the immorality of the imperial court, united in rebellion under Prince Tang, the founder of the dynasty of that name. Kwei was defeated in battle and imprisoned until his death, in 173 B. C. The fate of Mei-hi is unknown.

Another of the wicked beauties was Taki, a captive taken in provincial warfare in 116 B. C. She captivated the Emperor Chow Sin, one of the most wicked of China's rulers. For her the emperor built a palace a mile square, surrounded by a magnificent park, in which all sorts of rare animals ranged. This palace was called the Stag Tower, and proved the funeral pyre of Chow Sin, for after enduring a few years of unparalleled oppression to gratify the extravagance and cruelty of Taki, the people revolted, and Chow Sin, fleeing to the Stag Tower, himself fired the building and was consumed in its ruins. Taki was captured and condemned to death, but so captivating was her beauty that no one would execute the sentence of death, until an aged counselor, covering his face so that he might not falter in purpose, delivered the fatal blow. The Chinese still believe that she was the human incarnation of a wolf demon.

Most interesting of all, the Cleopatra of China was Pau-sze, whose beauty enslaved Yiu, emperor of China from 711 to 710 B. C. She was the daughter of a petty chief and was spoiled and imperious rather than cruel. She cared little for the emperor, although there was nothing he would not do to please her, even to the dimming of the heir, that her son might be declared the successor. At last, after every expedient had been tried by Yiu to win a smile from his charmer, he stooped to a mighty piece of folly.

There was in existence at that time a system of great beacon fires, to be lighted only in time of mortal peril, when all feudal chiefs were pledged to hasten to the capital to relieve the danger of their emperor. Yiu one day ordered them to be lighted, and in great anxiety for their monarch's safety, his vassals rushed by armed marches to the capital. The emperor's object was accomplished. Pau-sze, whose sense of humor must have been odd, was writhing in smiles as the charmed prince marched up to the city at the head of his troops. This was probably the most costly smile in history, for, later, when a real crisis arrived and the beacons were lighted in earnest, no vassal responded, and the capital was captured and plundered by barbarians. Pau-sze, carried off a captive by their chief, was never heard of more.

No other hand has guided the destinies of China than that of Empress Lu-chi. The widow of a weak and ineffectual emperor of the Han dynasty, she began to reign in 194 B. C. on behalf of her 14-year-old son. She had to cope not only with tangled political questions, but by her promptness and energy stamped out a rebellion that was incited by an inferior member of the late emperor's harem, who conspired on behalf of her own son. The promptness with which Lu-chi meted out a barbarous justice to the plotters saved the empire from serious troubles. Any one who exhibited any disapproval of her highlanded rulings was promptly removed, either by poison or the knife, so that great as was her genius, Lu-chi was not unworthy of the title of the Lucretia of China.

One of the noblest characters in Chinese history is Chang-sun. She was the wife of the reformer Tai Sung, a great emperor of the Tang dynasty. The adviser and confidant of her husband, by her tact in keeping out of

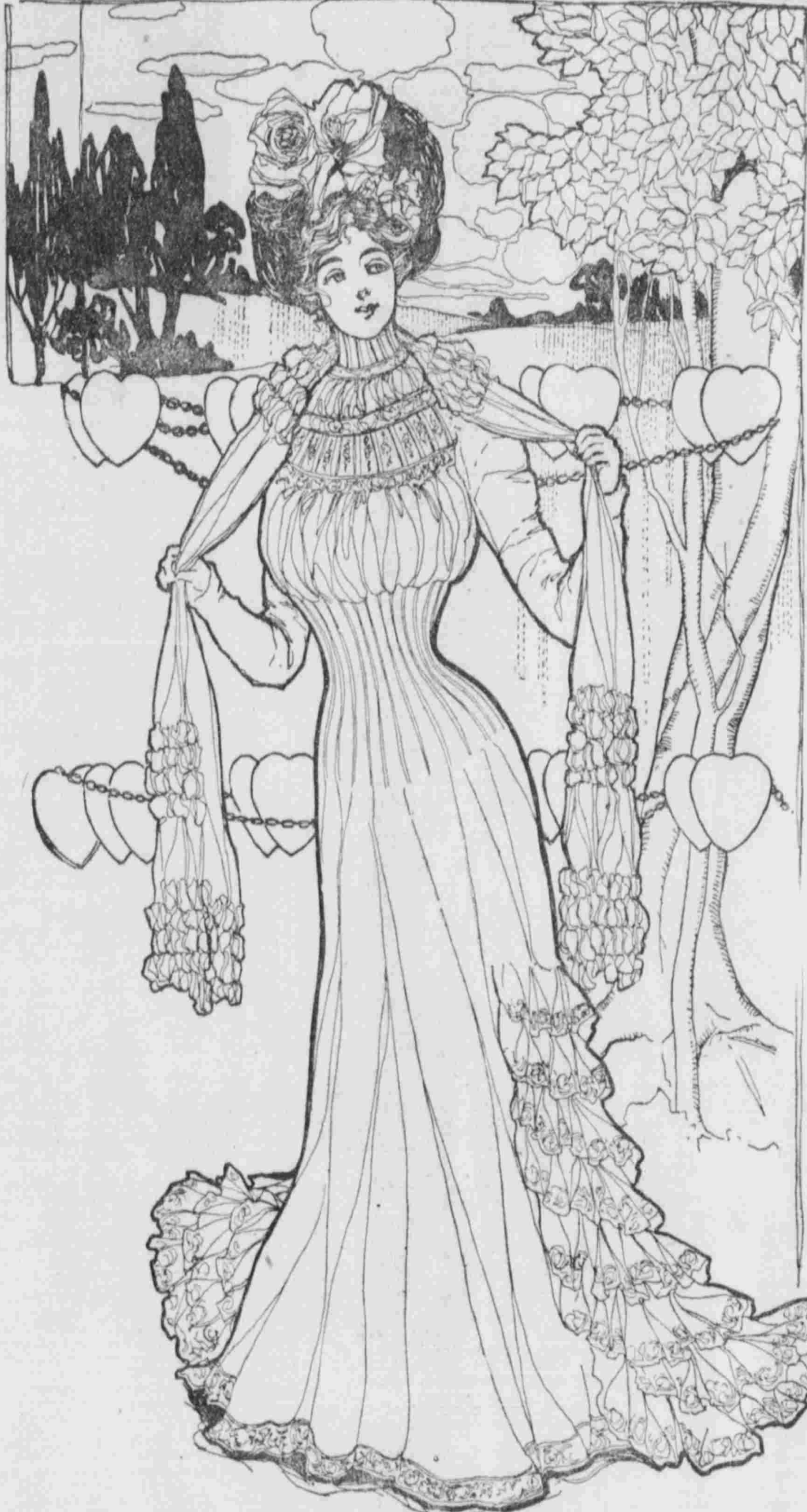
public affairs and her benevolence she endeared herself to the common people. She died in the year 697 A. D. Her dying words to her husband and son are models of wisdom. She asked that no costly funeral be accorded to her and no expensive monuments erected over her body, lest these should cause taxation to burden the poor. She also besought her friends to make no rich

events of the reign was the conquest of Korea in 667 A. D. The death of the emperor placed absolutely in her hands the government of the country. For 20 years she was its undisputed sovereign. As regent for her son she should have been content to allow him some voice in public affairs, but, domineering the imperial robes of the sovereign, which no other regent had dared to touch, she directed the cabinet meetings and state audiences, at none of which the emperor appeared. She proclaimed herself the founder of a new dynasty, abolished the ancestral temples of the Tangs and built others for her own family in their place.

She was a woman who put a proper value on talent and surrounded herself with able ministers and advisers. These even her favorites were not permitted to affront. One day in her presence the prime minister, unrebuked, slapped the face of one of these favorites because of lack of respect shown his office. This favorite, a dissolute Buddhist bonze, or

lacked ability. Her husband, a weak, pleasure loving creature, was grateful for the devotion she had shown during his exile and allowed her a part in the government. She fell under bad influence, and when, by assassination, every one likely to oppose her had been removed, she sacrificed her husband. She sent him poisoned cakes, of which he ate heartily and died. She was appointed regent for her 16-year-old son, but her end came soon. The princes of the house of Tang, learning that they were to be murdered in order to prevent disputes over the succession to the throne, gathered their followers about them, forced their way into the palace and killed Wei and her accomplices.

From these glimpses into the lives of China's famous women it will be seen that the history of the present Empress Tai Ah does not greatly differ from those of many of her imperial predecessors. Like Wu-how, she attained the throne through the death of her rival, and, like that empress, able ministers



THE SUMMER GIRL AT THE ZENITH OF HER GLORY.

From out the chaos of many experimental stages of summer dress there comes to be admired this daintiest version yet seen of froth and frill. The end of each season is usually punctuated by one of her kind. She is up to date always. She has watched the vagaries of fashion with an eagle eye. She has permitted her colleagues to solve the problem of becomingness whenever a new fashion has winged its way across the dress horizon. Profiting by these observations, she selects the best of all in which to array herself, and, lo, we have the conquering maiden—she who will be the standard of perfection for every summer girl to imitate until another season ends and a newer edition of the "fairest of the fair" graces the seaside piazza. The girl of the picture is not only an artistic success, but an avant courier of coming fashions. She wears her hair parted at the side and arranged in the long loop on her brow which is to be the accepted autumn style. Her abundant tresses are crowned by the flat hat with upturned brim which hints of the Napoleonic craze, emphasizing the association of gauze and heavy fabrics, for, be it known, her diaphanous gown is lined throughout to give the appearance of stiff brocade. The edict has gone forth that "flesh tints" for daytime are the peculiar habit of the vulgarly inclined.

offerings to the temples to buy for her prolongation of life, "for," said she, "our life is in the hands of heaven, and when it decides we shall die there is no mortal power can change its will." The most famous of the great empress regents was Wu-tsh-tien, also called Wu-how. Her history is an oral romance. A daughter of the governor of King-chow, she had been a member of the harem of Emperor Tai Tsung. With the other ladies of Tai Tsung's harem, Wu-how on his death retired to a Buddhist nunnery. Her wonderful beauty chained the eye of Tai Tsung's son and successor, Kau Tsung, one day when he met her in the palace, where she had come to live on invitation of the Empress Wang-shih, who was much attached to her. Wu-how rewarded friendship with treachery. Kau Tsung was far from being the wise and exemplary man his father had been, and the lovely Wu-how was soon exalted to the position of harem favorite. Empress she could not be while Wang-shih, the first wife, lived, and she soon compassed her death. The emperor was during his life quite under the thumb of the able Wu-how, who took part in consultations with the ministry and insisted on a joint share in the government.

Gradually Wu-how absorbed entire control of the empire; her husband was a mere figurehead. One of the great

monk, named Hwai-yi, exercised a great fascination over the empress, but no one ever exercised sufficient power to save himself when the cool headed lady decided that his further existence was a menace to her own safety.

Wu-how had caused a splendid temple to be built for the bonze and had appointed him his abbot. When the temple was finished, it was noticed by the mandarins that the 10,000 monks whose devotions Hwai-yi presided over, were a singularly able-bodied set of young men, with a knowledge of sword-craft quite out of proportion to their proficiency in prayer. This fact was reported to the empress, and she ordered the banishment of the military looking monks to different parts of China. Angry at this, Hwai-yi, who no doubt was plotting to seize the government, burned the temple to the ground. Wu-how publicly paid no attention to this act, but secretly she gave orders for the favorite's assassination.

At last bowed down with years and illness, the Empress Wu resigned the government to her son, Chung Tsung, whom for 20 years she had kept in retirement far from the capital. She was 50 years old at this time and spent the year that intervened until her death in a magnificent palace assigned to her by the government.

Wei, the wife of Chung Tsung, aspired to be a second Wu-how, but she

have been her salvation. It remains to be seen whether, like her great prototype, Wu-how, she will end her days peacefully, or, like others of the ambitious regents, die by the hand of an assassin. She is now 66 years old and has reigned for about 50 years.

ALICE DE BERDT.

FASHIONS THAT ARE TO BE.

DAISY MAY DESCRIBES LIFE AND DRESS AT NEWPORT.

NEWPORT, R. I.—This sea city is a perfect whirlpool of gossip. Throw a stone into its center, and every wave vibration will bring to your attention a topic worthy of discussion. Each balcony may be likened to the eddying waters. Most times the doings of men and women are the fertile field of talk suspected. If, however, you wot of the newcoaters and stroll within their circle, you'll find the clothes question lightly rippling over the surface, and strange to relate, men are among the most attentive listeners. This isn't marvelous, though, for, as a matter of fact, the Newport man's personality is as distinct as that of the Turkish minister with his Washington household and his Fourth of July baby. He dresses better than any man in the world; his flirtation formula is surpassingly excellent; his the most correct form of loafing in the wide world, and his capacity for love-making 24 hours of each day, a record breaker. His life is one of ideal idleness, and he dotes on clothes as women do.

One of these jackadassical apologies for mankind bestirred himself a bit the other morning at the Casino, when he thought his utterances were to be overheard by a scribbler. I am indebted to him for some impressions, and because of this I hesitate to name the dude, who positively wears pink socks, a pink silk shirt and white flannel suit with pink tie stripes. I was disgusted with the "Newport man," for this kind of garb is that adopted by many. Do you blame me?

With war and rumors of war in the air, it is astonishing how lightly some folks treat the subject. For instance, "khaki" has now reached the standing of a fashionable disease. London leads, and the rest of the world will soon follow. Each week develops some "fashionable" adaptation of the name. Last year it was welcomed in book cover form. Now it has invaded the waters, and houseboats are christened "Lyddite," "Pompano," "Powerful," etc. And some one has said "P. P. C." stands for "Pour Prendre Croquet." The fact has incited the colony here, as might be expected. Auto vehicles of the fashionable set are now being named. The latest one on record, I understand, is called "Mackintosh."

Before this hudget sees the light of day, Lady Randolph Churchill, Jennie "come that was, will probably be the wife of her youthful lover, Lieutenant West. I hear her gowns are marvels of duty—this notwithstanding the boy's officer's return to field duty, will prevent his admiring her in them. American women are speaking harshly of those who enforce West's absence, even though it be a wedding of May and September. Houses are divided against themselves, and the gay set, here and abroad, have taken up cudgels in defense or condemnation. Lovers appear determined, and why permit them to go their way in peace, Mr. Prince of Wales, and with us blessing?

Mrs. Mackay's concert at Carlton House Terrace was a great success and elapsed in point of elegance and stupendous extravagance the one given by Miss Waldorf Astor. Lady Randolph was one of the shining lights present. Her handsome young lover was most attentive. She wore a superb string of pearls around her waist in girlish fashion, with the lieutenant's miniature on a porcelain dangle from an end which fell below her knees. The Newport girls have a craze on now for exhibiting their lovers' faces in like manner. It will not be difficult to determine who belongs to whom if this labeling process becomes a vogue.

Almost before the Fourth of July fire-walker has ceased to smoke, and while the temperature still makes the mermaid's lot seem the only happy one, prudent woman is seriously considering her winter frocks. While clad in gauze she gasps for breath; still she is pondering the merits of chamois and weighing the possibilities of corduroy. While she aims for a cool appearance in a shell pink and silvery blues she is basking the advantages of cherry color and the charms of plum in bleak December.

One of the facts which she knows already is that the fall will usher in a velvet season. Velvet frocks, velvet coats and velvet skirts will be worn by all who can possibly afford them. Those who cannot will wear velveteen. In these days of admirably "piled" velveteen the substitute is not a bad one. Along with these fabrics, corduroy will enjoy favor as a material for ordinary gowns. While the velvets and velveteens will be used for frocks of ceremony—calling, driving, dinner and the like—corduroy will be the material for the commonplace costumes in which the midday shops, markets, visits the poor and performs the other duties of state to which it has pleased heaven to call her.

Alpaca is to be restored to such favor

as it enjoyed in the old days, when every well regulated wardrobe contained a black silk, black alpaca and an India shawl. Alpaca is seen in the shops in all its shimmering, smooth prettiness and in a dozen colors. It deserves the popularity it enjoys, for it is not only attractive in its sleek, bright way, but it is also proof against creases and as durable as any material can be.

Cashmere comes back again with a flourish of trumpets. It is woven with a silk wool and is exquisitely soft and pliable. It will be used extensively for indoor gowns this winter. In fabrics for evening wear the clinging stuffs bid fair to claim the coming season for their own. Crepe de chine is to be worn not only by "bada," but by women of all ages. A new material which has the moonlight effect most sought for at present is "moire veours," and a newer one is called "osaka." It is a wavy crepe, in many colors. Gilded oriental satins, crinkled silks and silk crapes, all of them soft and "drapery-like," are to be extensively worn.

Green, bottle green, hunter's green and even olive green are to be the favorite shades. The last named will share the honors with plum color,

two or three times, as occasion demands.

At her last tea a delicious fruit salad made of pineapples, oranges and bananas, rich with a dressing of sherry, maraschino and champagne, served in a sparkling cut glass dish, graced the center of the table. Slices of the thinnest brown bread, spread thick with fresh butter, cut into long, narrow lady finger shape, were piled high on one side of the table. On the other, leek tomatoes, deliciously seasoned with mayonnaise dressing, were laid between squares of fresh, new made bread and alternated with sandwiches of thin Graham crackers spread with cottage cheese.

The favored guests at these Sunday evening reunions stroll in to the tea table just as their appetites move them, and any one of the group assumes for the moment the duties of the hostess. A small side table holds nuts and conserves and bonbons and a large punch bowl for those who prefer something stronger than tea. Various cups have been tried to suit the taste of the various guests, and one that has found universal favor is worth repeating. A large slice of pineapple served rather thickly with sugar is placed at the bottom of the bowl. To this is added a bottle of good claret and a half pound of ice. Just before it is drunk a pint bottle of sparkling Moselle is poured over it.

Daisy May

FACTS ABOUT THE EYEBROWS. Romantic women usually have a very well defined arch in the center of the eyebrow, while a sense of humor is indicated in the arch nearer the nose. Where the eyebrows are lighter in



FOULARD GOWN.

Foulards are still in favor, and if you have one ready to make you cannot do better than to copy this model. It was designed in the workrooms of Olcott & Weeks, New York, and is the acme of simplicity and grace. The skirt is circular, and instead of the ever present box plait is shirred in the belt at the back. The bottom is finished with three shirred ruffles two and one-half inches wide. The waist, which is blouse back and front, has a collar and yoke of tucked white taffeta and heavy cream lace insertion. Outlining the yoke is a bertha of white cloth stitched with blue silk, edged with heavy cream lace. A broad belt of the foulard banded with the white cloth and a bow of the foulard, holding the bertha together in front, complete the decoration and add just the touch necessary to stamp this one of the daintiest foulards of the season for general wear.

which is an evolution from the emerald and magenta of past years.

Sunday is a day of rest even in this turbulent city, and the clever hostess who entertains on that day contributes, by the informality of her proceedings, to a good reposeful time. There is one woman of my acquaintance here who makes a specialty of Sunday teas. She sets no exact hour, though all her friends know that her house and her dining room are open from 8 o'clock on. Nothing hot is served except chafing dish bits and tea, and these may be made any time during the evening or

color than the hair the indications are lack of vitality and great sensitiveness. Faintly defined eyebrows placed high above the nose are signs of indolence and weakness.

Very black eyebrows give the face an intense and searching expression; when natural they accompany a passionate temperament.

Very light eyebrows rarely are seen on strongly intellectual faces, although the color of the eyebrows is not accepted as singly as denoting lack of intelligence. The form gives the key to the faculties and their direction.

Red eyebrows denote great fervor and ambition; brown a medium between the red and black.

The ideal eyebrow accepted by the Greeks as the perfect feminine eyebrow is long, nearly straight, arched and delicately penciled. But, like the rosebud mouth, it does not indicate the highest order of intelligence, and the arch is expressive always of greater sensibility and greater strength of character.

A STORY FROM ROME.

An amusing story comes from Rome. Some American ladies made their appearance at a papal reception, in a building of the pope, in a building room dress. A well known cardinal was instructed to apprise those offenders of their breach of etiquette. The cardinal thus fulfilled his somewhat delicate mission. "The pope," he said, "is old fashioned and does not like décolleté dresses; but I am quite accustomed to them, for I have been so much among savages when a missionary that I do not mind them."

A HANDSOME HOMEMADE LACE COLLAR.

NOW that lace is so popular for trimming, women are devoting more of their attention to making it than they have done for some time. Very pretty and serviceable laces may be made at home. One of the handsomest of these consists of leaves and flowers crocheted of fine linen thread and united by the point lace stitch. This is excellent for revers or collars for children's clothing. To make either of these articles cut out a piece of brown paper in the desired shape, making it a little larger than the required size. Stitch the leaves and flowers over the paper in such a way that they will form a harmonious pattern, and with a needle



and thread, beginning at the center of the paper, unite them with the point lace stitch. An idea of how this is done may be obtained from observation of the sketch. When the leaves and flowers are all stoutly united, the paper may be removed and a heavy border crocheted or stitched around the lace.

Wild flowers lend themselves best to these patterns. Any good crocheter will know how to make them. In making flat wheels or spider webs, which form a part of point lace work, the spokes are formed of the thread twisted twice across for each spoke until enough have been made. They are then caught in the center and the thread is woven in and out.

WOMEN IN MANY LANDS.

Mrs. Esther Herman of New York has recently given \$5,000 to the library of the Young Men's Hebrew association.

Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, whose home is in Charlotte, N. C., is now in Saratoga, the waters there having been recommended to her by her physician. A Honolulu newspaper states that former Queen Liliuokalani, while in

Washington not long ago, became interested in automobiles and took lessons in running a machine. She has now ordered one sent to her in Honolulu.

The Marchioness of Douro, so famed for her beauty in the early part of Queen Victoria's reign, the second Duke of Wellington's widow, whose privilege it was to close the dying eyes of the

great duke, is still alive, in her eightieth year, and is said to be regaining strength after an illness.

Ellis Scarlett, M. D., is attending a course at the London School of Tropical Medicine, Seamen's hospital, Albert dock, prior to taking up her appointment as medical officer to the Imperial household of Korea.

Among royal women Queen Amelia of Portugal and the crown princess of Denmark are the tallest, though the

Duchess of York is above the average height. In England the average is 5 feet 6 inches, but in America it is two inches less, the superiority of the English being accounted for by their love of outdoor exercise.

Mrs. C. N. Williamson, one of the most widely read novelists in England at present, is scarcely known even by name in this, her own country. She was Miss Alice Muriel Livingstone of Foughkeepsie, N. Y. Her career began

as an actress, and in her first novel, "The Barn Stormers," one will find much autobiographical experience.

Miss Margaret Ashton of Didsbury has been elected to the Urban district council of Withington, Manchester, England, and the Poplar district board of works has elected Miss Alice Tattersall as sanitary inspector.

Vienna has become the center of the artificial bird manufacturing industry, and during the past three years its

shops have turned out 750,000 of these necessary adjuncts to the milliner's art, all of which were fashioned from the feathers of domestic fowls.

There are now 40 pearl button factories in Iowa working up shells procured from the river beds. Nearly 1,500 people are employed in the factories alone. Inland is very prevalent in China, it being asserted that as many as 200,000 girl babies are killed every year. In many large cities in China there are

asylums for the care of orphans, supported and conducted by foreigners, which save yearly from slaughter thousands of female infants.

All classes in China dress by imperial command, and when the Feking Gazette enounces that the emperor has put on his winter hat on a day prescribed by centuries' unvarying astronomical custom all China does likewise and turns over the chair cushions, exposing their "winter side."