

17. Woman's Sphere.

By One of the Sex.

The Lives We Live.

THE WOMAN'S CONGRESS IN CHICAGO.

Nothing of a public nature for women has caused such widespread interest and discussion as the Congress of Women in Chicago. Every subject of interest to humanity at large, but treated of in a distinctly womanly fashion, has been discussed by these progressive daughters of Eve. Naturally, the feature which interests this people more than any one of the others, is the part our own women have taken in this momentous event. They were invited to hold a separate convention, at which they presided, and their own chosen speakers treated upon such subjects as were considered best. This was a grand opportunity. In the rush of things there, it may not seem much to them nor to us, who look at the affair superficially. But the fact that our women have been treated in every respect by the leaders and organizers of this movement in Chicago as equals, proves that Zion is moving rapidly into her proper sphere. The names of our women appear on the roll of officers for the National Organization, and they have been consulted with as much respect and formality as the most wealthy and powerful Eastern leaders. This reflects great credit upon the Eastern women who have taken so noble a stand, and it also gives to us, as women of this Church, a place and prestige that we have never before enjoyed in our associations with the outside world. One of the last words of Prest. Young, indeed the last conversation he ever held upon earth, was about the advisability of sending out some sisters as lecturers upon the topics best suited to them. His last words to Sister Snow the evening before his fatal illness were, "Well, it's an experiment, but it's an experiment I would like to see tried." It is sixteen years since that was said, and at times it has looked as if this experiment of sending our women out to the world to tell their own story was never to be tried. But truth moves, and today our women have spoken to the world at its own invitation. The women who have gone to accept this invitation were full of grave doubts and shrinking as to their own personal fitness for such a responsible position. But we who are at home knew that if some of our beloved women were not able to talk glibly of Paderewski or discuss the merits of rose and violet luncheons, yet were they full of that sweet, womanly intelligence which will win its way to all honest hearts. Better than all this, our sisters went with the blessing and faith of the holy Priesthood, and nothing good could be withheld from them mentally or spiritually. It is certain that those who listened to our sisters received light and much that is new in religious and moral truth, and our sisters will be greatly benefited by this contact with the brilliant minds of this congress of women. Joseph Smith once said that he hoped we would possess ourselves of every truth in science, art and invention that the world discovered as the light was being poured out upon them in these directions and the time would come when we would be cut off from the world.

Infant's Diseases.

Perhaps the most troublesome and frequent complaint of very young children is that known as the colic. But if we are to be accurate, we shall not call every attack of indigestion which babies suffer, colic; for colic is really an affection of the bowels, and is far more painful than ordinary distress in the stomach. Colic, too, is as often given to the child through the mother's milk as it is through improper modes of nursing the child. To begin with, a mother who has a weak liver and who generates gas in her own stomach when she eats acid food, is very apt to give colic to her babe, even if she feed the child at proper and regular intervals. If then the mother is thus affected, it would be cruelly on her part to eat things which would induce this distress in her innocent baby. I have no patience with the barbarous mother who calmly eats cabbage and pickles with the cold-blooded remark that "baby must get used to it." If the mother be strong of stomach and liver, she can eat cabbage and onions all she pleases, and if her baby is fed at regular intervals, neither indigestion nor colic will trouble the rest and sleep of her innocent infant. Therefore, young mother, watch yourself and use a little of the sense God gave you with some of the tenderness which came along with your baby's birth, and experience will show you what you and your baby can do and what to avoid. I hardly think baby will have indigestion if you nurse him regularly and once in three hours. If he does, it is the fault of your diet. And if he should, you must dose him on hot water, put hot clothes on his bowels, and toast his feet at the fire. Then, too, you can give a little catnip or camomile tea, if you won't put sugar in it and if the attack begins to look like genuine colic, which you will know by the child drawing up its legs and stiffening with pain, then get out your small bath tub, fill it with very warm water, put baby in, and let him stay as long as ten minutes, at least. Then wrap him up in a hot blanket, and give him a full enema of quite warm water. Let him sip hot water every few moments, and you will soon have the pleasure of seeing him go quietly to sleep. Now put him down in a warm, nice crib, with either a bottle of hot water or a rubber bag of hot water at his feet, and leave him to sleep for four or five hours. If you have been the chief offender, leave off the offending food which gave baby the terrible distress, or if you have been feeding him irregularly, then begin at once to reform and never stop again. Don't put very much into his tender stomach when he wakes up, for it is sore and will be slow to digest what he next receives. Of all the silly arguments which women use to prove that babies should not be nursed on hygienic principles, I think the most absurd is that a baby's stomach is so small. I'd like to know if it isn't as big in proportion as yours or mine is. How would it seem to have the baby made with a stomach that would hold three pints, as yours and mine do. And yet, some folks try to put three pints into a baby's stomach, and they act as if baby ought to eat his three pints every hour. Depend upon it, nature knew exactly what she was about when she constructed baby's stomach and he needs almost as much time to digest his food as you or I do.

From Our Exchanges.

Dress.

FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Navy, grayish-blue, gray and golden-brown serge of a light weight are serviceable, inasmuch as they shake the dust, do not wrinkle nor soil easily, and dye well when the owner is ready for remaking them, writes Emma M. Hooper in a valuable article on "Traveling Dresses" in the *May Ladies' Home Journal*. Mixed and striped chevots are as staple as serges and share their good traits, while being newer in their mixed appearance than a plain color is. These are in navy and Russian blue, brown, tan, gray, violet and green effects, the last two not appearing in the inexpensive goods. Hop sacking mixtures are similar to chevot, but are of a more sleazy weave, and might be called thin homespun were it not that homespun is out of fashion and hop-sacking is in. These mixtures are in every possible combination of two or three shades or colors, and cost from \$1 to \$1.50 a yard, with a width of forty-two to forty-eight inches. Serge is from thirty-eight to sixty inches in width, and costs from fifty cents to \$2, with an excellent quality at seventy-five cents and \$1. Chevot may be had for forty-nine cents to \$1.50 a yard, and from forty to forty-eight inches in width; the popular qualities cost seventy-five cents and \$1. For midsummer wear the Japanese silk gowns are delightfully cool and will be even more patronized this summer than ever, as Chicago is very warm in July and August. In printed silks the blue or brown grounds having white figures are selected at a cost of sixty-nine cents to \$1, twenty-two to twenty-seven inches wide.

FASHIONS.

The incoming fashions are marked by a decided return to the styles of the first Empire. Comparatively few waists reach to the arm-pits. These short-waisted bodies are finished with a wide folded band of velvet or silk; sleeves are either broad leg, or muttons or else wide puffs and close long puffs.

Skirts are wider than a year ago; the medium width is three and a half yards, with some four, of the umbrella shape. Skirts have generally a narrow trimming of several little flounces or a narrow puffing on the edge.

In dress fabrics, the demand for wide wale and wide diagonals, in rough service goods, is great; watered effects are seen in fine wool dress fabrics and many of the favorite corded goods have the cords running both ways and crossing each other on the bias.

Soft corded Ottoman silk in fine qualities is coming into favor. Peau de soie, which is serviceable as well as useful, is used for rich dresses, and wraps for spring.

Light weave material combined with silk and velvet is much favored for home wear. A very handsome and not expensive costume is of old pink feule cloth with a perfectly plain skirt and a waist of black velutina trimmed with cream guipure lace.

MATTERS OF DRESS.

This seems to be a period of transition in dress the same as in all other matters of human interest. Wise is the woman who retains the perception that suitability is the first law of beauty in ap-