WOMAN'S REALM.

WOMAN'S POSITION IN SPAIN.

Little Better Than a Domestic Slave, But Satisfied With Her Lot.

Woman in Spain has had no part in the emancipation of the sex that has taken place in most European countries in the last century, says a writer in the Fortnightly Review: "As a factor in social life she stands entirely in the background; man has the predominant influence, and the position of woman is an entirely subordinate one. To the foreigner the first sign of this is visible in the absence of that easy and homely spirit of hospitality prevalent in other countries, and which owes so much of its character to female influence. In this matter the ideas of the Spaniard retain a flavor of Orientalism, which the progress of time and the general advance of civilization around him have been unable to dissipate. He possesses what we should call most limited views as to the sphere in which woman should move. He thinks that a good wife should have no interests which may distract her from the duties of her household, and hence these duties—the chief among them being the care and bringing up of children—form the chief occupation of the Spanish lady.

"Any unusual development of intellect in a woman is held by public opinion to be unfeminine, and the proportion of intellectual women in Spain is remarkably small. The majority of Spanish girls are quite uncultivated in our modern sense of the word, except as regards hand-embroidery, music and dancing, for which the race has considerable aptitude. Half a century ago the orthography of a large percentage of well-born Spanish ladies would not have come up to the standard of one of our elementary school boards. The education of Spanish women has indeed improved during the last thirty years, owing chiefly to greater facilities for travel and a certain filtering through of foreign habits of life. But this has only taken place within the recognized lines of communication over the country. Physical training plays as small a part in the education of Spanish women as does intellectual culture. In this, too, there is a wide distance separating the Anglo-Saxon woman from her southern neighbor. One of the most noticeable characteristics of the former is the love of exercise which she has recently acquired, and in which she can now with impunity indulge. In Spain, on the other hand, not only do women take little or no exercise, but they have a strong aversion to taking it. Spanish girls are never, in their childhood, taught to appreciate open-air life, and they have no opportunity of acquiring the taste later on. An endeavor was made a short time ago to introduce bicycling into Madrid as a feminine amusement, but the attempt was a failure, owing to the obstructive attitude of both sexes. The new idea was only taken up by a few votaries of foreign fashion."

One result of the position of the Spanish woman is the easy solution it offers of "conjugal problems." The explanation of this fact is to be found in a corollary to the following general proposition offered by the author: "One of the most essential conditions of conjugal happiness is that the views of the contracting parties as to their respective spheres of action should be in perfect harmony. In Spain there is never any question of what a woman ought or ought not do or think. She is a domestic drudge, but she is a perfectly contented one, and no more devoted wives and mothers are to be found than in that country."

The Strenuous Life For Girls.

Strenuosity, however, seems to imply at least a shade of difference from energy, else why the new name? The dictionary says it is something "vehemently pressing or urgent, strongly insistent, marked by uncompromising zeal." Tracing the word back to its root in the Greek, we find that "strong, hard, rough, harsh, especially of sounds"—for example, "the strenuous trumpets." Precisely! The strenuous life is the life that sounds like a trumpet. It is dominant, assertive, militant. There is a tone of defiance and strife in it. It is next door to a strident life. If this is what it means, it is not a natural nor a desirable life for girls.

I take it for granted that a man and a woman are of the same worth and of the same kind. A woman's truest and inestimable value in the world lies just in the qualities which make her womanhood. And those are things which strenuosity must disturb, if not destroy.

A serene and gentle dignity; a tranquil wisdom to counsel and restrain; a fine delicacy of feeling, quick to rejoice, tender to suffer, yet patient to endure; a subtle sense of the value of small, unpurchasable things; a power of great confidence and of self-sacrifice almost limitless where love speaks the word and duty shows the task; an instinct of protection, and a joyous pride in mothering the weak; a brave loyalty to the rights of the heart against "the freezing reason's colder part;" a noble hunger and thirst for harmony; an unnegotiable strength of personal reserve; and an Alpine steepness of personal surrender—these are the native glories of womanhood. These are the things that life, true and well ordered, should deepen, unfold, brighten, and harmonize in the perfection of a woman's character.—Henry Van Dyke, in Harper's Bazar.

Touches That Make For Elegance.

Sets of shirt waist buttons of painted and gilded china are effective if rather unwieldy accessories of dress. Some are round, others oval or square and are decorated after the fashion of Dresden, Bow, Staffordshire, Limoges and Sevres. An ornament for the belt or to match these buttons, and it is to be hoped turn out it resembles nothing so much as a butter plate!

The buttons, ornaments and baubles in general enjoy no less a measure of consideration than the actual materials of our gowns themselves. The prettiest ones are the little crystal or paste affairs which form the tassel to the cut steel or ribbon knots or bows which embellish our frocks. Then narrow velvet ribbon is run through half a dozen or so of tiny paste buckles without any reason d'etre except in the matter of ornament, and as nearly everything terminates in a tassel all manner of charming methods are employed in their construction. Fuchsia and flower tassels are popular, and on the smartest and newest petticoats the ends are gathered into the similitude of tassels, and the same idea is carried out in the millinery. Everything is knotted, too, the most fashionable stocks being those wound like a bandage round the throat and twice knotted in front or brought low down and knotted over the bust. In the tailor-made river gowns the tie is brought from either side under the coat and knotted over the bust is quite le dernier chic, though one can hardly without a stretch of imagination describe the idea as a new one. It certainly was a popular finishing touch to a tailor-made gown at least three years ago.—New York Commercial-Advertiser.

Parasol Pointers.

Always quaint and pretty are the dainty little carriage shades.

Elderly women especially appreciate their capability of being lifted exactly right, thanks to the joint.

A plain lace cover over a silk foundation is the usual thing.

Tucks figure. Either in clusters to form a border, or in an all-over scheme.

A lace or embroidery medallion may be applied to each gore. This is usually done that the parasol may be really a part of a costume.

Grotesque handles are not seen to any great extent.

Very lovely are those terminating in the shape of a rose bud, a lily bud or other flower that lends itself.

These delicately enameled novelties are chosen to match the dress.

Detachable covers may be admirable, but they seem to us about as sensible as detachable hat trimmings.

Strapped parasols are not a happy idea, the effect being clumsy.

A jeweled network over a fine crystal ball forms a stunning mount.

Clever little Dresden figures form attractive handles if a pretty dress is to be worn.

A plain white sunshade is useful and pretty.

Grass linen ones are the top of the vogue with a carried with them soiled rigs.

Sun-and-rain umbrellas are, as usual, in evidence.—Philadelphia Record.

A Woman Politician.

Miss Bertha B. Fischer, says Lady's Pictorial, is the first lady who has qualified as a member of the Society of Certificated Liberal Agents, and is the daughter of Colonel Bowness Fischer, late of the Indian Staff Corps.

The society in which she has qualified for membership was established to diffuse knowledge of election laws, including registration among agents and others interested. Miss Fischer went up for examination in London last February, and she is now a fellow of the society. She thinks it is the duty of women to come forward to fill the posts now open for them, and considers that the closing of the doors to women by the London Borough Council Bill and the present Education bill is to the injustice of women themselves. She is strongly of the opinion that the day will come when women will have the franchise, so that it is desirable that they should know something of registration law.

Though young, Miss Fischer is honorary secretary of the Southsea Women's Liberal Association, has been for three years on the executive of the Portsmouth Liberal Association and a member of the Finance and Ward Committee. She has done a great deal of active election work.

"Just the Sweetest Thing."

Many of the designs of last week are borrowed from those used for handkerchief flowers. Not only has this idea invaded the realm of dress decoration, but its introduction is in the crowning glories of evening gems. The lingerie hat wears the Parisian hallmark, and is pronounced "just the sweetest thing" for midsummer wear.

Batiste, lawn or nainsook edged or stitched, and English embroidery are used in fully creations in combination with lace and flowers galore. The hat that their correct expression is only possible under the deft handling of a milliner artist is the chief of their many charms.

Pretty Things to Wear.

A new material is "cool cloth," a coarse thick fabric that is serviceable and smart.

The usual black band on women's sailor hats is replaced occasionally this season by one of the bright greens.

Rings to be in the van of fashion must be set in the old style with very large stones and encircled with diamond dust.

Watch chains are drifting toward old-time simplicity. Chatelaines or studded skin finish is seen on many of the fine gold watches.

A pale blue glace petticoat is trimmed and inserted with white lace, through which is run black velvet ribbon of the narrow width.

A handsome lace pendant is in the form of a fleur-de-lis studded with diamonds. The flower stands up over silver, with the lace run of gold.

Nearly all of the shoes that under the name of oxfords have temporarily lost favor for the present season are to be had in a quality that meets the tastes of fastidious.

With the coming of the yellow season brunettes are planning into renewed favor. Shades of rose principally are gold are quite in evidence in the displays of the season.

A rose has a fashion that looks like a small handful of flowers and is set above the [illegible] It is [illegible] with a pin, but which method it proves to be [illegible] are usually mounted on sticks tinted a light green.

Collars of Arabian lace or other heavy valley are prized in stylish neckwear for the season. A frill of chiffon or other soft material is added to the throat and about the outside edge and with long ends of ribbon or the chiffon, one has as pretty and dainty an accessory as could be desired.

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS

FURNITURE FOR AUTUMN.

Leather Much in Evidence—New Idea at to China Closets.

A prominent feature of the newest furniture offered for autumn is the great favor shown leather. Leather seems to adorn or trim every piece it can way or the other. Low chairs it is particularly liked. It is either used for cushions, to upholster the back and seat, or in strips it forms the back and seat of them. The leather serves is the favorite of the hour, and when it is not all made of leather, leather applications of various descriptions are used as embellishment.

* * *

A very novel idea just out is to close the doors of china closets, bookcases cupboards, etc., in the Mission style when of weathered oak, with a plain and a strip of leather or short wrought iron chain. The latter is far and away the most effective and smartest.

* * *

The acanthus leaf and tulip are seen as the decorative motifs of many of the latest and most artistic wall coverings for autumn. The imported effects are especially desirable, and grass-cloth in ecrude and wood colors, with a conventionalized design of tulips, is stylish to an unusual degree, besides making a fine background.

* * *

While the very warm days come, one is apt to feel "blessed be nothing," yet the airy, diaphanous stuffs elected for summer, harmless this season are so cool and dainty looking, besides dressing a room so charmingly, that something is accepted as necessary to the comfort and good furnishing of the house. Select a loosely woven, cool cotton stuff that will hang in the nicest of folds, and that will grossly accentuate the light of the seashore or the wild of the mountains, and they will be all that can be desired.

* * *

If a change is desired from the pure white dotted Swiss, embroidered scrim and dainty, cross bar muslins, of the fine Nainsook suggest Canton, China, worked in white silk in a heavy design are admirable. These blues are unexceptional with mahogany furniture, besides will stand "tubbing" without the slightest chance of fair.

* * *

Rattan furniture, painted a strong chrome yellow, is substantial, fashionable and is quite one of the ordinary for summer furnishings. A plain yellow upholstery stuff is as usual accompaniment or a white crash cover with a yellow border.—Philadelphia Record.

A Handsome Portiere.

Any clever woman can easily have an exceedingly handsome portiere next winter by making it her piece of summer fancy work. Get the required length of velour or tapestry in the desired shade and have stamped on it a dragon of the royal arms of Turkey or Persia. Then outline this in narrow gold braid and you will have duplicated an exceedingly expensive curtain at about one-third the price. Of course it will have to be lined underneath.

Built-Out Seats.

Bull's-eye seats continue to be one of the most popular of house decorative features. The latest have little railing rims, one of which is often arranged with a pocket to hold a book, magazine or fancy work, and a top shelf on which a cup of tea may be served.

. . RECIPES . .

Lemon Sponge—Cream one large cup of sugar with two thirds of a cup of butter, then with fresh lemon juice and a little grated yellow rind dissolve half a teaspoonful of baking soda in two teaspoonfuls of hot water and add the mixture then stir in flour as much as to make a batter stiff enough to roll out thin. Cut in rounds and bake in rather a moderate oven. Essence of lemon is probably used by the bakers to give the flavor.

Hash Browned Potatoes—Cut or chop quite fine four medium-sized potatoes season with salt and pepper, put two tablespoonfuls of butter in a frying pan, when it has melted add the potatoes and until the potatoes are well mixed with the butter and are heated through add to one side of the pan where the heat is moderate, with a stirring for twenty minutes, the potatoes should be browned and form an omelet when turned out of the pan.

Fruit Juice Pudding—Put one cupful of any fruit juice with one cupful of water over the fire, mix three level tablespoonfuls of corn starch in one-third cup of cold water, when the fruit juice and water is boiling add the corn starch, stirring constantly until it thickens; then add half a cupful of sugar; beat the whites of two eggs very stiff, then beat them into the pudding, turn into a mould, put in the oven and steam very slowly from twenty minutes to half an hour.

Pineapple Pudding—Pare and cut into thick one pineapple [illegible] fruit [illegible] and mould bottom and [illegible] a saucepan half a cup of sugar and the of the fruit and half a [illegible] milk, stir until boiling, and [illegible] well cold add the [illegible] eggs, and when well [illegible] whites well beaten, [illegible] moulds and steam [illegible] minutes. Serve [illegible] pudding sauce.

[illegible] Sauce—Wash [illegible] and [illegible] a saucepan [illegible] of water and [illegible] sugar, and when [illegible] add the [illegible] well [illegible] [illegible] minutes. Serve [illegible] sauce.

PEWS BROUGHT HIGH PRICES.

In Washington's Exclusive St. John's One Sold for $2,750.

At an auction sale held Friday at Sloan's auction rooms two pews in St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, Lafayette square, were sold at big prices. Pew No. 52 brought $2,750, while pew No. 77 was sold for $1,650. While the prices may seem large, in reality they are not, for it is a rare thing for a pew in old St. John's, which is the ultra-fashionable church in Washington, to be had for "love or money." The church edifice being so small, the pews have for years been most sought after, and they have been available only of [illegible] by auction. Then they are sold outright to the purchasers and remain in a family until that family either dies out or moves away from the vicinity. Often pewholders with small families sell a part in their pews for a certain number of years, and even a single seat brings prices away up in the hundreds of dollars. It has been several years since there was a chance to purchase a pew in St. John's. The last pew sold—at auction of course—was during the Cleveland administration. It brought a better price than the two sold Friday on account of its [illegible] location. [illegible] is said that persons who [illegible] pews or seats in St. John's church, if asked, would take up all the vacancies in a new church almost to the tune of the present cost.

Some years ago a Pattimorean [illegible] a pew in St. John's and gave it to [illegible] with the distinct understanding that it was to be placed at the disposal of the president of the United States and his family. Presidents of the years [illegible], have occupied this pew, for Mr. Cleveland [illegible] the Presbyterian church, and so did Mr. Harrison. Presidents McKinley was a Methodist and Mr. Roosevelt is a Dutch Reformist. Mrs. Roosevelt is an Episcopalian, and [illegible], with the Roosevelt children now occupies the president's pew almost every Sunday.—Washington Correspondence Baltimore American.

A Useful Society.

Writing in the June Century, of the organizations to create or preserve beauty in public places, Sylvester Baxter thus speaks of the service of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society: "Its record of work accomplished includes the protection in New York state of the interests of thirty-three in the hope for preserving such historic memorials in New York city as Fraunces Tavern, the home of Alexander Hamilton, and the cottage of Edgar Allan Poe, the Philipse Manor in Yonkers, the mansion of Sir William Johnson in Johnstown and the ruins of the fort at Crown Point and Ticonderoga. A feature of the society's work is the permitting of effective service."

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The immediate answer was: "Certainly not."

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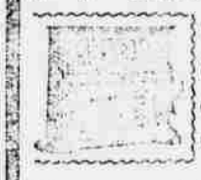

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