

Madame De Sevigne's Letters. Edited by Mrs. Sarah J. Hale. 1 vol. New York: Mason Brothers.—That enterprising firm, Mason Brothers, has begun the publication of a series of volumes, of which this is the first, devoted to the letters of eminent letter-writers. The present volume contains a selection from the best epistles of Madame De Sevigne, and is the first attempt, we believe, to bring those celebrated letters, in any shape, before the American public. The epistles are models of style, and ought, on that account alone, to be in the hands of every intelligent woman. In addition, however, they paint the manners of France, two centuries ago, with a vividness one never sees in stilted, methodical histories. The volume is issued in excellent style.

Patriarchy; or, The Family: Its Constitution and Probation. By John Harris, D. D. 1 vol. Boston: Gould & Lincoln.—This is by the author of that excellent work, "Man Primeval," and is a continuation of the subject there introduced. In "Man Primeval" the constitution and probation of individual man were traced. In "Patriarchy," the constitution and probation of the family, which is the development of social man, is exhibited. We regret that the press of books on our table, this month, presents our saying more, at present, respecting this very superior work.

Geoffrey Moncton; or, The Faithless Guardian. By Susanna Moodie. 1 vol. New York: Dewitt & Davenport.—This new work, by the author of "Roughing It In the Bush," will find many readers. The story is full of incident, and is, perhaps, the one, of all Mrs. Moodie's, which she considers her best. The publishers issue it in quite a handsome style.

Rose Clark. By Fanny Fern. 1 vol. New York: Mason Brothers.—The story of an orphan girl, in which the errors of a certain description of Orphan Asylums are exposed. The tale is quite unequal, parts being written with great power, but other parts exhibiting negligence and occasional departure from good taste. The volume is beautifully printed.

Border Beagles. A Tale of the Mississippi. By W. G. Sims. 1 vol. New York: Redfield.—A revised edition, handsomely illustrated, which all should have, who wish a presentable series of Sims' novels.

Estelle Grant; or, The Lost Wife. 1 vol. New York: Garrett & Co.—A novel of American life, handsomely printed and bound.

NEW RECEIPTS.

To Whiten the Skin.—Slice a quarter of a pound of old Castile soap, and place it in a jar near the fire, pour over it half-a-pint of alcohol; when the soap is dissolved and blended with the spirit, add one ounce of glycerine, an equal quantity of oil of almonds, with a few drops of essence of violets or otto of roses, then pour it into moulds to cool for use.

For Making Cold Cream.—Take a drachm of white wax, the same quantity of spermaceti, two ounces of oil of sweet almonds, and an ounce-and-a-half of spring water. Dissolve the wax and spermaceti in the oil of almonds by placing them in a pipkin, near a fire, or in a vapor bath. Pour the solution into a mortar, and stir it about with a pestle until it grows cold and is quite smooth; then pour in the water, little by little, and keep stirring the mixture until the water is thoroughly incorporated with the other ingredients.

No Silks look well after washing, however carefully it be done; and this method should therefore never be resorted to, but from absolute necessity. It is recommended to sponge faded silks with warm water and soap, then to rub them with a dry cloth on a flat board, after which to iron them on the inside with a smoothing iron. Sponging with spirits will also improve old black silks. The ironing may be done on the right side, with thin paper spread over them to prevent glazing.

A Good Lip Salve may be made in the following manner:—Take three ounces of oil of almonds, three-quarters of an ounce of spermaceti, and a quarter of an ounce of Virgin wax. Melt them together over a slow fire: when well amalgamated, remove the mixture from the fire, and keep stirring it till cold. Then add a few drops of oil of rhodium.

THE TOILET.

THE HANDS.—Nothing contributes more to the elegance and refinement of a lady's appearance than a beautiful hand. A well-formed hand, white and soft, with tapering, rosy-tinted fingers and polished nails, is a rare gift; but where Nature has denied symmetry of form and outline, it is easy, by proper care and attention, to obtain a delicacy of color and a grace of movement which will place it sufficiently near the standard of beauty to render it attractive.

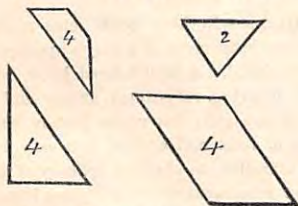
Gloves should be worn at every opportunity, and these ought invariably to be of kid or soft leather. Silk gloves and mittens, although a pretty contrivance, are far from fulfilling the desired object. Night gloves are considered, from the unctuous substances with which they are prepared, to make the hands white and soft, but they are attended with inconvenience, besides being very unwholesome. A moderately warm bran poultice laid on the hands about once during a week is a very excellent application. It must be remembered that the color of the skin of the hands, in common with that of the whole body, is dependant, in a great measure, on the general state of the health. The hands should be washed in tepid water, as cold hardens them, and predisposes to roughness and chaps, while water, beyond a certain heat, makes them shriveled and wrinkled. In drying them, they ought to be well rubbed with a moderately coarse towel, as friction always promotes a soft and

polished surface. Stains from ink or other causes should be immediately removed with salt and lemon juice—a bottle of this mixture should stand ready for use on every toilet. The soaps to be preferred are such as are freest from all alkaline impurities.

The palm of the hand and the tips of the fingers should be of a pale pink color. Moderate exercise of the arm and hand are the best means of promoting this natural glow. The beauty of the nails depend, in a great degree, upon the treatment they receive; they ought to be frequently cut in a circular form, neither too flat nor too pointed. The root, which is sometimes called the half moon, from its crescent shape, should be always visible. It is whiter than the rest of the nail, and is connected with the vessels which supply the nail with nutriment for its growth and preservation. When the nails are disposed to break, some simple pomade should be frequently applied, and salt freely partaken of in the daily diet. A piece of sponge, dipped in oil of roses and fine emery powder, gently rubbed on the nails, gives them a polish, and removes all inequalities.

Many ladies think that all sorts of labor is to be avoided, if the hands are to be kept elegant. But this is a mistake. Care is all that is required. In fact, it is only by using it, that the hand can be made to acquire that freedom and pliancy, without which there can be no grace. A hand, kept idle, grows clumsy and loose-jointed.

PRACTICAL PUZZLE.



Cut out fourteen pieces of paper, card, or wood, of the same size and shape as those shown in the diagram, and then form an oblong with them.

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

FIG. I.—A BALL DRESS OF WHITE SILK, with two jupes, over each of which is worn a deep lace flounce, reaching to the upper band of crimson velvet which edges the jupes. Corsage low, and very much pointed in front. The bretelles are formed of lace. In the front of the corsage is placed a bow of crimson velvet. Sleeves formed of two puffs, with rows of lace. Head-dress of crimson flowers and green leaves.

FIG. II.—A WALKING-DRESS OF DARK SILK.—Skirt long and full, and ornamented in front with drop buttons put on in zig-zag form, decreasing in size as they approach the top of the skirt. The basquine is closed up the front and trimmed all

around with buttons like those on the skirt. These buttons rise from the waist and pass over the shoulders, forming bretelles. The sleeves are demi-long, and trimmed with buttons. Bonnet of white satin, ornamented with rows of black velvet. Very full cap trimming.

FIG. III.—TALMA EUREKA, from the establishment of Molyneux Bell, No. 58 Canal street, New York. This beautiful affair is made of black satin velvet, with gores of moire antique set on, with moss trimming. The yoke is of velvet, made in a point; the collar of moire antique, edged with moss trimming, and finished with tassels.

FIG. IV.—THE REGINA MANTLE is made of black velvet, and is circular in form, with a slight droop behind. The trimming consists of two rows of very rich black lace over tulle grenadine. Above the upper row of lace, there is a row of exquisite embroidery executed in black silk, intermingled with jet bugles. The pattern of this embroidery, which is novel and curious, represents flowers and birds tastefully grouped together. A narrow row of lace trims the top of the mantle, and tapers to a point at the front of the waist. The bonnet is of Albert blue velvet, trimmed with a torsade of satin of the same color, intermingled with black lace, and on one side there is a drooping feather of mingled black and blue. Under-trimming bouillonnees of white tulle and pink flowers.

FIG. V.—BALL-CLOAK, called the jaguarita, a material called *duret de cygne*—white, very light and soft, so as not to rumple the toilet. The cape is ornamented with a white silk fringe as well as the sleeves, which fall like those of the old talma. Around the neck is a rich galloon. The peculiarity of this article of dress consists in its not opening at the breast; but it fastens at the shoulder in crossing, and is good shelter from the cold.

FIG. VI.—DRESS OF BLACK SILK, trimmed with black velvet. Body high, very close, terminated by a lappet of seven or eight inches deep. Sleeves composed of a round jockey, a puff and a flounce. A velvet, an inch and a half wide, is placed square on the back, and goes up on the shoulder to come down and end on each side. Six cross bands of velvet, cut to a point at each end, with a button on each point, are put on like frogs. The bottom of the front of the lappet is trimmed with short pieces of velvet ending in a point, on which a button is placed. The jockey is likewise trimmed with velvet, and on the arm is a velvet bracelet. The puff of the sleeve and its flounce are confined in velvet loops. Skirt very ample, with three flounces, each having a hem an inch and a half wide.

FIG. VII.—CHAMBER TOILET.—We present to our readers as a new fashion, but not a becoming one. It is only a Parisian caprice. It is a head-dress composed of velvet and embroidered muslin. Two tufts of velvet loops are brought to meet, gradually diminishing, on the back hair. The muslin foundation is small and trimmed with a band which falls behind,