

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

BALLS AND PARTIES IN FRANCE.—In some respects, the etiquette at balls and other dancing parties is different, in France, from what it is in England and the United States. Something of this arises from the fact that fewer young girls go to parties in France. A late French writer says:—"A modest girl will wear a simple dress; her demeanor will be calm, utterly devoid of airs and affectation. She will, perhaps, manifest timidity on entering the room and saluting her hostess; but blushes are preferable to boldness. She will speak little, and not giggle at all; she will listen attentively to the music, and will dance quietly and modestly; she will not accept, still less will she lay herself out for, attentions on the part of young men; she will not give them her fan, her memorandum card, or her handkerchief to hold; she will partake of refreshments with great discretion. When dancing, she will not lift her dress too high, nor look her partner full in the face. If he utter a few half-room commonplaces, she is to reply politely but briefly, without bluntness or embarrassment. When all is over, she is to thank him with a curtsy. If, by mistake, she has promised the same quadrille to two partners, she is bound to do her utmost to prevent any misunderstanding between them, by refraining from dancing with either of them, and perhaps even by renouncing dancing for the whole of the rest of the evening."

These are excellent rules and not inapplicable in America. Equally sensible are some points of etiquette, in France, relating to the behavior of gentlemen at balls. A French young gentleman asking a lady, will request not the *pleasure*, but the *honor* of dancing with her. If she is under the care of a chaperon, he will treat the chaperon with exactly the same respect as he would her mother. Dancers, in France, never take off their gloves, nor venture to squeeze their partner's hand, nor press their own against her side in a gallop, and especially a waltz. The moment she wishes to interrupt that dance, they drop their arm instantly. If they are dancing with a single lady, their respectful reserve becomes still more marked. The dance over, they offer their arm to conduct her to her place, where, bowing lowly, they thank her for the honor she has done them, and retire. A young lady should never be seen to converse intimately with her partner. It is uncivil, even blameable, on the part of the gentleman, to attempt to establish anything like familiar intercourse. At a ball it is not allowable for the same partners to dance too frequently together.

At French balls, it is allowable to ask a lady to dance without being formally introduced to her—which has both more convenience and more common sense than our custom. In good society, *nobody* ought to be supposed to be invited who is not fit company for the other guests. Any gentleman, therefore, present should be supposed to be an eligible, or at least a permissible partner for any lady.

POCKET-HANDKERCHIEFS partake highly of the fantastic and fanciful. For afternoon out-door toilets, the handkerchief is of unbleached cambric, trimmed with Valenciennes, sewn on without any fullness. At the four corners of the handkerchief there are small Valenciennes patterns inserted, and the cambric cut away. A butterfly, a bee, a jockey's cap, and a peacock, etc., are the general ones. The peacock, when worked in exquisitely fine Valenciennes lace, is beautiful. But the initials form the most distinguished patterns.

HATS AGAINST BONNETS.—The attempt to make hats unfashionable has not succeeded. There are, indeed, more bonnets worn; but many ladies still prefer hats: in fact look better in them. The hats are so various that it would be difficult to indicate which form is preferred. Some ladies wear hats more like the high-crowned black hats worn by men; the crown is not quite so high, and the brim is broader—these are the only differences; we have engraved one of these hats. Very little trimming is added; a flower is usually placed at the side, and appears to fasten a scarf, which is twisted round the top of the brim and falls on the shoulders. These hats are made of either black or white sewed-straw, and the color of the veil corresponds with that of the hat. The *toquet*, with brim turned up at the sides, and forming a point both at the back and front, is very becoming to the generality of faces; a long feather is worn round these *toquets*, and forms the sole ornament to them. The *jardiniere* hats are also worn. These have round brims, which are turned down and bound with velvet, to which is added either a gauze or lace veil. These hats are worn alike by young girls and their mothers, and especially by those who are not sufficiently youthful to adopt any of the faster fashions.

LADIES' RIDING HATS AND HABITS.—In Paris, the high-crowned, or man's hat, has quite superseded the Spanish, or pork-pie, or, indeed, any other shape, for ladies when on horseback. These tall, black hats are trimmed with a rosette of black lace, and two long streamers of the same at the back; there is a short black veil in front, and this veil is rounded off at the corners, and fits the face as a mask. The hair is worn in one large bow or boss at the back, well padded with a huge frizzette, and kept neat by means of a very fine invisible net made either of hair or fine silk to match the hair. The size of this "back hair" is, in many instances, wonderfully large. In the rest of the riding costume there is nothing novel from last season; the habits are long, and the bodices are made with swallow-tail basques at the back; the small linen collars, the deep cuffs, and the bright neck-ties, have been worn for many seasons, and are not likely to be superseded. But the divers shaped fancy hats, ornamented with peacock's, pheasant's, ostrich, Muscovy duck, and other brilliantly metallic plumage, which gleamed and glistened on the heads of the fair riders last season, have all disappeared to make room for the more severe and orthodox man's hat.

"CHEAPEST IN THE WORLD."—The Platteville (Wis.) Witness says, in a late notice:—"Peterson's is, without question, the cheapest Magazine in the world. It is still being offered at the old price of two dollars per year to single subscribers, and to clubs at the rate of four copies for six dollars, and six copies for nine dollars. Nothing but an immense circulation could justify such low rates in these expensive times. Though low in price, the Magazine keeps up to the old standard of merit; indeed, we think rather goes beyond." And the Lockport (N. Y.) Union says:—"No lady, about to subscribe for a magazine, should fail to examine Peterson's, and, having examined it, she will conclude with us it is the best Magazine, for the money, that is published."

LACE VEILS are, for the present, put aside; fancy veils are worn in preference, and these are worked over with pearls, crystal drops, and beads, and every part of the design is put in relief by means of spangles of some description.