

the lovely shrink from the cold lips of the dying, I would ask you to come near and let me kiss you."

Now Alice was bending over the sufferer's couch, her lovely face like an illuminated passage from some old book of devotions, and her hot tears streaming down on those white, withered hands which clasped her own.

"Ah, you are very beautiful, and once he thought me beautiful; but now I am dying—I shall die before the autumn, and he will be glad. I came to Westmouth when the doctors said I must not be moved, because I wished to see you—I wished to save you. Philip Yewburton!—I will not upbraid him—he was to be my husband, we were to have been married six months ago, and now I shall soon be dead; but I tell you, as the last kindness which God has given me to show to any one, that Philip Yewburton does not love you. He loves your beauty, and you and your beauty—let sophists say what they like—are not one and the same. Your beauty might pass away in a year: mine did. Look at me," said the anguished woman, turning her marred features to the transparent, health-stamped beauty of Alice's sweet face, sweet even in its excess of sorrow. "Your beauty might pass away in a year, but you would remain. You—no other—with the same heart and the same memory; and Philip Yewburton would turn away and tell you with the kindest voice that everything should be done for you that money could do; you should have everything that money could buy; but nothing sweeter would you have from him."

"Mabel—Mabel," cried her sister, coming and

kneeling down beside my poor distracted Alice, "you will kill the child!"

"No, no," broke somewhat petulantly from those pallid, feeble lips. "This little shock will be forgotten, and she will be stronger for it afterwards and more beautiful even than she is. Good-bye. No, do not kiss me" (but she did). "If you come again—and I should like you to come again—bring your violin. I love the violin, and ah! how he can play it! It was his violin that won my heart. You need not fear to come again if I send for you. Philip Yewburton, when he knows I am here, will come to me at once. He will chide me for travelling; he will bring me heaps of flowers. He will tell me I may yet get better, and I shall smile, well knowing that I soon shall be better, much better, in heaven. Then he will go away again, and you may come: will you?"

"Yes," sobbed Alice, "I will come every day."

Poor child!

A silence followed. The dying woman's sister put her arm round Alice and drew her away while the invisible angels, if indeed there are invisible angels, mutely blessed them—those two angels that were not invisible. Ah, reader, that was two years ago; they are very different now—very different they were when I last saw them smiling, chatting, and laughing together; more beautiful, but very different, for they both are mothers.

And Philip Yewburton? I do not know. I never ask. I see and hear sad things enough without going out of my way to seek them.

HOW TO DRESS ON TWENTY POUNDS A YEAR.

TWO PRIZE PAPERS.*



GRANTING the possession of good taste and judgment in order to appropriate this sum to the best advantage, it is quite possible to dress well and suitably in every respect, without exceeding the sum mentioned, as the writer hopes to make clear in this paper.

Many ladies with a limited allowance are able, by making their own dresses, to save dressmakers' expenses, and, consequently, to spend more money on the materials, but as many cannot (or have not time to) do this, it would be obviously one-sided, in proposing a scheme for the management of a dress allowance, to take for granted that dresses should be made at home. Moderate

dressmaking charges are, therefore, allowed for in each case; but in the matter of millinery, most girls with taste can trim their own hats or bonnets, thus saving considerably.

It will simplify matters for our purpose to divide the year into two portions, winter and summer, and we shall first deal with winter garments, the most important of which will be required about October. In selecting a dress for winter, a dark and serviceable colour should be chosen. Navy blue and dark olive or myrtle-green are always good and never unfashionable, whilst for delicacies of tone we have dark shades of all the best colours in Umritzur cloth, a most beautiful and durable fabric. That sold for 25s. the dress-piece is thick and soft, while velvet dyed to match each shade costs 4s. 6d. the yard. Supposing a dress length at 25s. to be chosen, with velvet 4s. 6d., foundation, linings, &c., 5s. 6d., and cost of making 15s., the entire cost of a handsome, artistic, and most durable winter dress is £2 10s. We may assume at least one of last winter's dresses to be in good wearing condition as a secondary one, and these will be found sufficient for winter and early spring wear.

A black cloth jacket, well cut, but plain (which is the

management of a dress allowance, to take for granted that dresses should be made at home. Moderate

* Between the authors of these two papers was divided the Prize offered by the Editor for the best paper on this subject.

best style), will cost £1 10s., and a hat either to match the dress in colour, or what is almost better, a black hat or bonnet (felt or velvet), in which some detail of the trimming, as a small wing, matches the dress, and may be replaced by different colours to match other dresses, should cost 10s. 6d.

Boots should always be good, and well (not tight) fitting. One pair of new boots will be required for winter wear, and will cost £1 1s., whilst 4s. 6d. will go for a pair of house-shoes. Four pairs of cashmere stockings, black, or the dark colour of dress, cost 8s.; and a serviceable silk umbrella, 10s. 6d. For renewal of under-clothing £1 10s. is allowed, and we have now provided for all but the small, though important, items of gloves, handkerchiefs, lace, and other details of dress. Very good long gloves are to be bought in many shades at only 2s. the pair, and 8s. may be allowed for four pairs at this price. Darkest bronze-green Suede will be found a most useful colour, and will go with any dress: the tan shades have the latter advantage, but not the former, as they soil so quickly. With regard to handkerchiefs, one dozen of very good white cambric, costing 15s. at most, will last for more than the year, so this item is finally disposed of. Collars and cuffs, or lace for morning wear, we shall put down at 5s. An evening dress could not, of course, be managed out of this allowance—that is, compatibly with being well dressed on ordinary occasions, which is the important point—but for home or other quiet evening wear, a dark dress may be most becomingly lightened by the addition of one of the pretty soft white vests which are so useful. Three of these made of Indian muslin and lace will last for a long time, or a silk kerchief, contrasting with the dress, may be used in the same way most effectively. The expense of these will be covered by 7s. 6d.

We have now supplied all wants extending over the winter months, and have spent half the allowance, viz. £10, as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|------------|----------|----------|
| Dress | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Jacket | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Hat | 10 | 6 | |
| Boots | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| House Shoes | 4 | 6 | |
| Stockings (4 pairs) | 8 | 0 | |
| Umbrella | 10 | 6 | |
| Under-clothing (including Corsets) | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Gloves (4 pairs) | 8 | 0 | |
| Handkerchiefs (one d. zen) | 15 | 0 | |
| Collars, Lace, &c. | 5 | 0 | |
| Three muslin and lace evening Vests | 7 | 6 | |
| | <u>£10</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

We now turn to summer clothing, which will be required about the end of April. Beginning with dresses, it may be observed that washing gowns are the reverse of economical, as most girls with small allowances are aware. In choosing two summer dresses, which should be suitable for many occasions, discretion must be exercised. For the more dressy of the two we shall select one of summer cashmere (Umritzur) at £1 1s. the dress-length. With making and other expenses this dress will cost £2 2s. Very light shades

must be avoided where economy is an object, but the neutral shades are so very pretty that there is no hardship in confining our choice to them. The second dress will be required for more general wear, and should be thoroughly serviceable. A grey homespun or beige gown will be found most useful; it should not be too light in colour, and should be simply and tastefully made. This will be suitable for walking or for seaside wear, also (with the addition of some items which will be found in our smaller purchases) for boating or tennis. The cost of the grey gown (making included) will be £1 10s. A thin cloth jacket, or a fur cape for spring and autumn wear, costs £1 1s. or so. For a jacket black is preferable, plain and well cut; if a coloured one is chosen it should be darkest brown or green. Should a cape be purchased instead of a jacket, a very good one (say raccoon fur) may be had for one guinea, but it would perhaps be better to have a sealskin one, costing £1 10s., and we shall leave a reserve fund to allow for the latter sum. A pretty straw hat or bonnet for summer wear on dressy occasions should cost only 8s. 6d., and a straw sailor hat, with a white or cream ribbon round it, for country wear, tennis, &c., will be 4s. Two pairs of walking shoes will deduct £1 1s. from the fund, and six pairs of good lisle thread stockings will be 12s. For a sunshade 10s. 6d. may be allowed; a cream, coffee, or string-coloured one is best, and will be correct with any dress. Three pairs of Suede or silk long gloves will cost 6s. For renewal of under-clothing £1 will be found amply sufficient, and 5s. will go for lace for neck and sleeve trimmings.

We have now, after providing for all requirements, a reserve fund of £1, unless £1 10s. has been spent on a sealskin cape, in which case we have a surplus of 11s. Either sum may be invested in such articles as a pretty tennis-apron (4s. 6d. or 5s. 6d.), and a sash to match the cashmere dress, and which can also be worn with the grey (the sash will cost from 4s. 6d.). The surplus may go for silk neckerchiefs, collars and cuffs, or lace. The following is a summary of the summer's wardrobe:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|------------|----------|-------------|
| Dress (cashmere) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| „ (homespun or beige) | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Jacket or Cape | 1 | 1 | 0 (or 30s.) |
| Hat | 8 | 6 | |
| „ | 4 | 0 | |
| Shoes (2 pairs) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Stockings (6 pairs) | 12 | 0 | |
| Sunshade | 10 | 6 | |
| Gloves (3 pairs) | 6 | 0 | |
| Under-clothing | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lace | 5 | 0 | |
| Sash, Tennis-apron, and other articles | 1 | 0 | 0 (or 11s.) |
| | <u>£10</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

Having submitted a Dress Scheme for one year on an allowance of £20, it is only necessary to add that this paper is based on practical experience, and that the writer trusts it may prove of equally practical use to ladies who wish to dress well and tastefully on a small allowance.

II.

To dress on £20 a year a lady must be prepared to go without many things that are often considered indispensable: she must do without silks and costly furs; she must be content with a plain handle to her umbrella; she must be willing to wear a jacket or mantle for two seasons or more, even if it be not the latest pattern; she must eschew all bargains in the way of cheap materials for dresses, as she cannot afford to wear anything that is not thoroughly good; she must avoid dressmakers' bills, and must buy the materials for her own gowns and have them made under her own eye.

A lady with small means ought to be able to do little items of work for herself, and not pay for every trifling alteration in her clothes. She should make her own under-clothing, and be able to trim a hat or bonnet for ordinary wear.

Then, and this is a most important point, she must take care of her clothes. When she has a new morning dress she must not wear it to water her plants, put out stores, or pick strawberries for jam, but must keep an old one for all occasions when there is a possibility of its being torn or stained. She must not wear a light dress on which every speck of mud would show, in the streets on a showery day, and she would be wise to keep an old hat or bonnet for wet weather.

Materials of mixed wool and cotton should be avoided, also such colours as will not wash or will fade in the sun.

The style of dress must vary considerably according to the abode of the wearer—whether it be in town or country. In the latter she may wear more washing fabrics and light colours than are possible in a town, but she will require stronger boots and more of them. Her hats will be far less expensive, and she will not need many bonnets.

In the following table a scheme is made stretching over three years. It must be borne in mind that the lady does not start without clothes at the beginning of the first year, but has by her old dresses, half worn and fairly good, boots, linen, and out-door clothing.

| FIRST YEAR. | | £ s. d. |
|--------------------|-----|----------------|
| Thick Woollen Gown | ... | 2 0 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 12 6 |
| Cotton Gown | ... | 15 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 7 6 |
| Thin Woollen Gown | ... | 1 10 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 10 0 |
| Evening Gown | ... | 1 10 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 10 0 |
| Carried forward | ... | <u>£7 15 0</u> |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Brought forward | ... | £ 7 15 0 |
| 1 Pair Walking Boots | ... | 17 6 |
| 1 do. do. Shoes | ... | 10 6 |
| 1 do. House Shoes | ... | 6 6 |
| 1 do. do. Slippers | ... | 4 6 |
| Under-clothing | ... | 1 0 0 |
| Stays | ... | 18 6 |
| Stockings | ... | 10 0 |
| 1 Bonnet | ... | 1 1 0 |
| 1 Hat or Bonnet | ... | 18 6 |
| Retrimming do. | ... | 15 0 |
| Winter Jacket | ... | 2 2 0 |
| Gloves | ... | 1 0 0 |
| Waterproof Cloak | ... | 1 1 0 |
| Lace, Collars, and Sundries | ... | 1 0 0 |
| | | <u>£20 0 0</u> |

| SECOND YEAR. | | |
|--|-----|----------------|
| Velveteen Gown | ... | 2 10 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 12 6 |
| Gown of light material that may be worn in the evening | ... | 1 10 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 10 0 |
| Medium Woollen Gown | ... | 1 10 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 10 0 |
| 1 Pair Walking Boots | ... | 17 6 |
| 1 do. House Shoes | ... | 6 6 |
| 1 do. Tennis Shoes | ... | 5 6 |
| Under-clothing | ... | 1 0 0 |
| 1 Winter Petticoat | ... | 8 0 |
| Stockings | ... | 10 0 |
| 1 Bonnet | ... | 1 1 0 |
| 1 Hat or Bonnet | ... | 18 6 |
| Retrimming do. | ... | 15 0 |
| Mantle (Summer) | ... | 2 2 0 |
| Gloves | ... | 1 0 0 |
| Silk Umbrella | ... | 17 6 |
| Parasol | ... | 10 0 |
| Dressing-Gown | ... | 1 1 0 |
| Lace, Collars, and Sundries | ... | 1 5 0 |
| | | <u>£20 0 0</u> |

| THIRD YEAR. | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Thick Woollen Gown | ... | 2 0 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 12 6 |
| Evening Gown | ... | 2 0 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 10 0 |
| Thin Woollen Gown | ... | 1 10 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 10 0 |
| Cotton Gown | ... | 15 0 |
| Making do. | ... | 7 6 |
| 1 Pair Walking Boots | ... | 17 6 |
| 1 do. do. Shoes | ... | 10 6 |
| 1 do. House Shoes | ... | 6 6 |
| 1 do. do. Slippers | ... | 4 6 |
| 1 Bonnet | ... | 1 1 0 |
| 1 Hat or Bonnet | ... | 18 6 |
| Retrimming do. | ... | 10 0 |
| Under-clothing | ... | 1 0 0 |
| Stays | ... | 18 6 |
| Winter Jacket | ... | 2 2 0 |
| Gloves | ... | 1 0 0 |
| Muff | ... | 1 1 0 |
| Stockings | ... | 10 0 |
| Lace, Collars, and Sundries | ... | 15 0 |
| | | <u>£20 0 0</u> |

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