

THE TROUSSEAU OF TO-DAY.



THE WEDDING-GOWN.

THE amount allowed for the purchase of a trousseau differs with the circumstances of the family and the number of it, and is governed also a good deal by the kindly generous nature of the parents. In some cases where a marriage is in prospect, which is remarkably good in a worldly point of view, the parents will probably desire to provide more handsomely than they would otherwise do were the prospects less brilliant. The amount of dress needed will be far more considerable in one case than the other; although the number of dresses may be the same, the style of them will be more expensive.

We will take a family of fair position with comfortable means, the daughter marrying an officer in the army or the navy, or a professional man of good position; and here we shall find that the sum set aside for the bride's trousseau will range from £100 to £150, up to £200, the latter being a very usual sum, especially when a girl has no fortune, or very little to take with her to her new home.

The cost of the trousseau of to-day may be rated rather higher, I think, than it was ten years ago; that is, so far as regards the purchasing power of the amount allowed, which is not so great as it was; or rather, perhaps, I should say that we have advanced in our ideas of what is required, and thus dresses cost more than they did formerly. On the other hand we can manage to do with fewer of them; for we unquestionably think it wiser to have less than we did. This rule seems to

apply even to the trousseaux of Royal ladies. The number of unmade gowns in them is very large, which shows that the varying moods of fashion are taken into account; and it is evident that there are many materials which can be purchased and laid aside for a time without injury, and also without becoming old-fashioned. But here the common-sense view of the matter steps in, and inquires—

“Why buy them before you need them, if you be not ‘a Royalty?’ In *their* case we can comprehend the necessity—there are so many people, institutions and nationalities that must be patronised on the occasion of a Royal wedding.”

Well, the true answer seems to be, I am sorry to say, in that well-known phrase, “Take it while you can get it”—in short, while people are in the mood for giving. There is also something in the fact of the fixed sum which is laid aside to be spent on the one object. It is best to use it. Perhaps if any of it be laid aside, circumstances may require it elsewhere. Life is

hot climate; or they would be useful even in England if we continued to have the hot summers of the last three years; and more especially if the heat were to extend into August, we should require quite a stock of clothing.

Perhaps, for the sake of argument, it is well to say that our trousseau allowance consists of £200. Of course there are very many girls who do not get more than half or a quarter of this sum, but still there are certain things that every girl must have and every trousseau must contain, and so one sum is as good as another; for where one girl would be entitled to afford ten guineas for a gown, another would need the same, but would only be entitled to pay five pounds.

Certain fashions obtain in one class which do not in another, it is true; but there are many girls who have to look as well as their richer sisters on half the annual income. This is done at the expense of personal thought and exertion, and of a patient determination which carries all before it. It is done by calculation and attention to the minor details of expenditure, by a knowledge of where to buy, and how to buy in the cheapest market, and also of the exact thing to buy. One girl will look smart and stylish, where another, with far more money, will



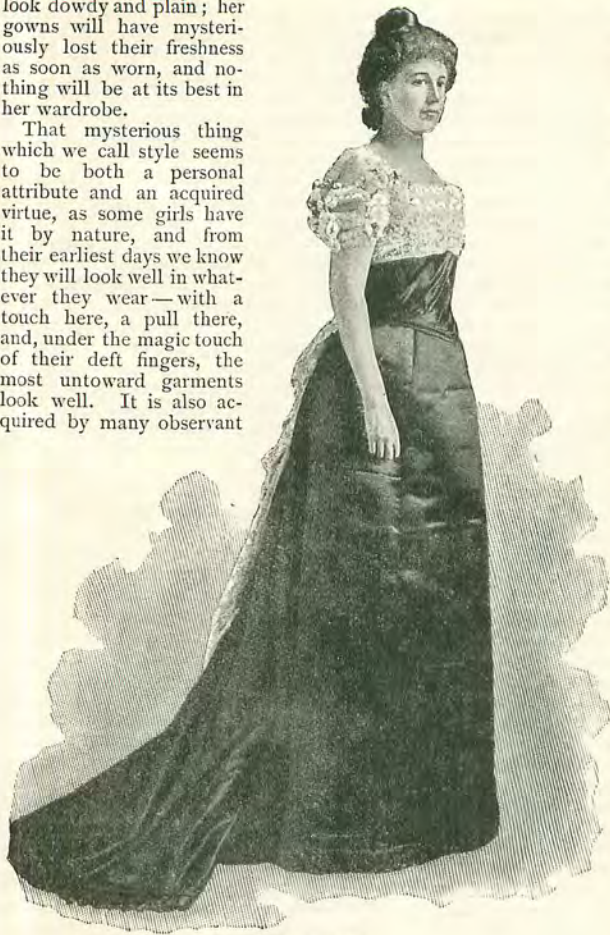
A LACE GOWN.

uncertain, and the father and the mother alike know human nature, and as it is their own money, and a kind of last gift to their child, they prefer it to be used as it is intended. To avoid having too many made-up things laid by, which may grow out of date, it seems better to purchase the materials which may be useful in the future, and which are excepted by ever-varying fashions.

Now, serge, blue and black, is one of these materials, and a little consideration will give us others: white dotted muslins and other thin materials, if our steps were likely to be turned to India or any other

look dowdy and plain; her gowns will have mysteriously lost their freshness as soon as worn, and nothing will be at its best in her wardrobe.

That mysterious thing which we call style seems to be both a personal attribute and an acquired virtue, as some girls have it by nature, and from their earliest days we know they will look well in whatever they wear—with a touch here, a pull there, and, under the magic touch of their deft fingers, the most untoward garments look well. It is also acquired by many observant



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girls in a suitable environment, and I think it means that they have the initiative faculty strongly developed. It is a great thing to find out your style and what suits you, and stick to it. Many girls look their best in a coat and skirt, and they appear smart and well set up, while we all know the other girl, who looks and feels untidy and dowdy, and comes unscrewed at her waist. Perhaps really good style consists in an exquisite tidiness, a dainty sweetness and cleanliness which is never forgotten nor omitted: bathing and brushing, and a strictness in mending all the tears, and sewing on all the buttons and strings exactly when they are wanted. All this implies that you possess the highest and best domestic qualities possible to womankind.

The sum we have selected, £200, must be divided into two parts; the first hundred must be apportioned to the dresses of the trousseau, and the second to the under-clothing and the numberless other accessories—bonnets and hats, boots and shoes, stockings and gloves, etc.—which go to make up the complete outfit of every woman. So we will begin with what seems to be an ordinary number of gowns for any girl who is in society and expects to have a certain amount of going out in the evening of one kind or another.

In making a list of the gowns we put down the wedding-gown, veil, and wreath, the going-away dress, evening gowns and tailor-mades, as for a wedding at any season these will be needed, and if in the winter, a mantle, jacket, or coat, in addition, and probably some furs. Just at present the wedding-gown is almost always made of ivory satin, with a Court train, this latter being so long and ample that it is nearly another dress. Of course, if the bride intends to be presented on

her marriage, this is a very wise arrangement, for it will thus answer two purposes and do for two events. Otherwise, having a Court train strikes me as a clever way of obtaining a second white satin gown, which, if you are to go out much, will be useful. But there is no need of the Court train, and you can have a very handsome wedding-gown without it.

It quite depends on your after use of your wedding-gown how much you spend upon it. Thirty-five guineas, if made of the best satin at about 13s. a yard, would be a handsome sum; but out of your hundred pounds it would be quite excessive. So I should advise you to look carefully at the satins, and if you can get the rightly-coloured ivory—the true hue of old ivory—in the linen-backed kind, do not take a silk one, as the former will wear quite as well and will look very nearly the same. About 7s. or 8s. a yard would be enough to give at a really good shop. If you have any old lace, use it for your wedding-gown, at least, for the neck and

means of whalebones at the sides, back and front. A hat to match this gown was intended to be worn with it, but I should have preferred a black hat as the wearer was fair, and the contrast would have been effective. A petticoat was made to match of the same silk, which is just now a very usual thing.

The other gown was what is called a tailor-made. It was of the palest grey cloth, the bodice being also simple, with a front of white satin and lace, and revers of the satin, which were braided with black and white. The hat worn with this was one of those gathered ones of chiffon or tulle in the prettiest pale blue. The wearer was dark, with blue eyes. The silk lining of this gown was of a pale blue, with a petticoat of the same. It will be seen that either of these gowns was of a character to be useful afterwards. Perhaps, instead of the blue hat or toque, one might have preferred one of the grey-coloured tulle, or a white one. These two are specimens of what is required in the going-away gown for summer, and the conditions vary but little in winter, for the cloth may be slightly heavier and some fur may be used. But the gown is a smart and dressy one, and, if needful, additional warmth may be procured by means of a cape or mantle; or the gown itself may be cool, and the skirt handsomely fur-trimmed, but suitable for afternoon wear.

As a general rule, three tailor-made gowns would be a fair allowance in such an outfit as this, including, of course, the going-away dress, if that were of cloth, and tailor-made. We must consider the exigencies and requirements of our daily life, and these would demand a knockabout, everyday coat and skirt of tweed, serge, or homespun, and another slightly better and more dressy, but not so dressy as the one I have mentioned. The tailor-made gowns may be classed as

good, better, and best, and therefore it is well to look about us and try to find such models for each as we may like. The cost would vary from three guineas, for the everyday one, up to six or even seven, for the best. The tailor you employ would of course make a difference in charge,

sleeves. The tulle veil and wreath together will cost about £2, and after this you will need to consider the shoes and stockings, petticoats and gloves.

What is called the going-away gown is, next to the wedding-gown, of the most importance in a trousseau, for this reason—that it will be for most women the out-of-door *pièce de résistance* for the summer or winter trousseau. A fair sum should be allowed for it, and it should be carefully chosen. I have seen two this season which have pleased me very much. The first was a summer gown of mauve voile, lined with a slightly darker silk, and trimmed with a flat *garniture* of white lace with an edging of narrow black velvet. On the skirt there were two rows of this, and the same was on the bodice, which had a white lace vest and revers, and one of the new lace collars that are quite transparent and stiffened by



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if extremely fashionable or of a more quiet order.

After the tailor-mades would come the consideration of summer *piqués*, drills, and flannels, with the muslin blouses to wear with them. Most girls have a stock of these already, and there is nothing to prevent them making such additions as will bring them up to the mark. These *piqué* and drill dresses can be purchased at very moderate prices during the sales, and so they need not be considered as expensive. Indeed, most of the girls I know have the skirts and muslin blouses either made at home or done by some "little dressmaker," to whom they supply patterns and materials. A *piqué* skirt, however, it is better to purchase, unless your little dressmaker can manage the strapped seams, for which there is an obligation at present if we would be in the fashion.

As regards the coats of these white gowns, I do not think we, any of us, find them of great value, and we wear out ten skirts to one coat. Frenchwomen wear them sometimes with black or coloured skirts, and I have noticed that they are worn in this way in England; but if you must have a jacket, or do not know what to do with those you have, I should advise you to have something between an Eton and a Bolero made of them. You can purchase a shape to suit you, and have the transformation carried out by any good dressmaker who works by the day, or who will undertake such small renovations and alterations.

The next important question is, I think, the gown for functions or for dinner-parties and small evening reunions; and my experience leads me to say that black satin is the best for these, and that a black satin with three bodices is the most useful. We illustrate two of these made this season for a trousseau. The first had a yoke and sleeves of white lace; the second, an evening bodice with a white lace top; the third bodice was in black, and could be worn out of doors. It was trimmed with sequins and chiffon. A good quality of black satin should be selected, and you must be guided as to price, and whether it should be a silk- or a linen-backed one also, by how much you are likely to require it, as a black satin shows wear rather more than a white one. The less trimming on the skirt the better, as trimmings so often mark the date of a gown, and you will be anxious

that your trousseau gowns should render you as long service as possible. So you must be careful only to select designs that are not of an extreme character; and both materials and patterns should be fashionable, but not too "loud." In this you will need wisdom, and if you patronise a good shop, they would help you. The extreme of style one year will often become the special fashion of that which follows.

The next gown is one which, while suitable for a dinner at an hotel or restaurant, could also be made suitable for a *very* smart garden-party. It is of white silk and chiffon, with white lace over it. The bodice was a square with transparent lace sleeves. These lace gowns were much worn this year, and I have always thought them perfect epitomes of smartness and beauty. The gown illustrated cost about ten guineas, I believe; but this expense could be lessened in various ways, as the shop was a very fashionable one, and nothing was grudged in its construction as to the material.

The other gown which was prepared for the trousseau, was a white, satin-faced foulard, with a tiny mauve design on it of leaves and spots. This was an afternoon visiting and concert gown, and was not very costly, only about six guineas. It was made with a pointed double skirt, and the trimming was tiny gathered ruchings of white silk. In the winter the place of it would be taken by a handsome, tailor-made gown of cloth. I think that, taking into consideration the garden-parties of summer, the trousseau of the winter would probably be less expensive. But still, if you were wise, something would be laid aside, or some preparation made for the summer gaieties that are sure to follow.

The next thing that I must dwell upon here is the hats and bonnets. The fashions of this present season seem to require a hat or a bonnet for every costume: but, on the other hand, we never had such a year for black hats, and they were quite correct for any costume, so the law was abrogated in its original sternness, which spelt ruin for some moderate allowances. Still, the going-away hat or bonnet looks better when not black: and it seems more suitable, too, that it should either match the dress or contrast with it. This year the drawn chiffon hats were so much in vogue that they were often chosen. Otherwise, a white hat is the prettiest possible

choice for a youthful bride. The tailor-made travelling gown must be considered in the choice of a hat or bonnet, which would be of a quieter style, and one that would be afterwards the ordinary walking headgear. The bonnet and hats for this trousseau would cost from seven to eight pounds.

In the matter of gloves we are very fortunate, for it seems to be the fashion now to wear white for every toilette. I see some black worn, however, as well as grey and lavender, and for the evening Swede are still used. White are to be obtained as low as 1s. 11½d. a pair, and if you go to a well-known shop, they are very good, and can be cleaned two or three times, but they must be kept mended and the buttons sewn on. Of course, your evening gloves cost more, but with care they can be made to last. Of gloves you would need—one kind and another—perhaps two dozen; and you should select a supply of all those suitable for the various purposes as you may need—riding, driving, cycling, ordinary walking in the country, best, second best and evening, and when you have got them, please remember that you must see to their preservation and keeping, and find a suitable basket or box and a dry place to keep it in.

Veils, parasols, waterproof, *en tout cas*, umbrella, pocket-handkerchiefs, neck-ties, feather boa, and endless small lace additions to dress—all of them cost money. In fact, one of my recent brides, on going over these last things, declared that her trousseau consisted of sundries; and that, when she added the boots and shoes and stockings, she might as well have £25 at once. This was the girl I have always admired for her straightforward consideration of the subject, as she said that it was the only time in her life she was sure to have all she wanted—a regular outfit—and she meant to have it.

"If I were only one of the boys!" she said. "They are always having outfits for somewhere; if not Ashanti, it is India. And just see what they want. Bullock-trunks and theodolites; and if the War Office changes a button or a tag, there is a new uniform at once. Oh, you don't know about boys! Their millinery is *so* expensive!"

And after this outburst the boys assured me with groans that it *was* really dreadful.

(To be concluded.)

ADVICE TO GIRLS WHO ARE ENTERING LIFE'S BATTLE.

THE DAWN OF A CENTURY.

By LADY HAMILTON.

DAWN is the hour of great possibilities. This we surely feel as we have stood at our window, leaning out to inhale the breath of morning, or have strolled on to a broad verandah and watched the soft mist rolling off the distant hills and the light in the horizon stealing across the gloom, revealing the silvery streak of the river ever widening in the distance as it wanders away to join the ocean.

The light breaks in the east, and the shadows of night pass away, and the tender breeze holds a promise of warmth in it, and the chill hours before daybreak have flown. The temperature imperceptibly rises, and our feelings rise in tune with these gracious promises of nature. The spirit seems laden with a great expectancy. Truly, we cannot tell what the day may bring forth, we cannot know what lies for us between sunrise and sunset, but we like to gladden our souls with a dream of a great future in the hours to

come, for "sorrow may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

The dawn is ours, the present is ours, the hour, the moment; the beauty of the surroundings is ours, and into the sunlight of the dawning day we may weave exquisite schemes of colour to gladden our eyes, we may experience the delicate odours of the flowers just awakening in order to refresh our senses. In fact, the possibilities of the daylight and the sunshine, and the evening shadows and the tender twilight, all hold the secret charm of the unknown. It is a fairy world at dawn, while a network of gossamer spreads over the grass, the gracious dews are yet refreshing the earth, and Aurora is bathing somewhere, to arise presently in all her tender loveliness to fleck the pale sky with her roses and to give to the old earth once again the golden glories of the morning.

As we become accustomed to all this

beauty the situation produces reflection, and we begin perhaps to consider the past and the future as we revel in the exhilarating present.

If the beauty and expanse of a day's dawn can thus affect us, with what feelings, with what emotions do we contemplate the dawn of a new century! What are our feelings as we look forward and as we look backward? The thoughts that beset us when a new year opens are overwhelming, but at the threshold of a new century, at the dawn of a new era, the thoughts of the heart are almost too full for expression. The poetry of life, however, has its place, and the practical side of life also has its place, and, as Solomon said, there is a time for all things.

The tenderness and the beauty and the possibilities of "the beyond" will be of little use if we do not practically survey the past, take to our hearts its lessons, and brace ourselves for a finer future.



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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

THE TROUSSEAU OF TO-DAY.

By DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.

PART II.

So great a diversity of opinion exists as regards underclothing that I look upon this as the most difficult portion of my subject, for out of the half-dozen women to whom I have spoken on the subject, no two of them wore exactly the same things, and no two of them had been influenced quite in the same way. But there were points on which they *all* agreed. Indeed, if you consider the number of things which women do, you will see at once that there *must be* a diversity of opinion as well as a great difference as to necessities. The woman who travels or lives in the country will need a different selection from that of the woman who lives in London, goes into Society more or less, and at any rate has plenty of smart occasions where she likes to look like her neighbours. A lady who was noted for her epigrammatic sayings once remarked that women were divided into two classes, "those who wore clothes, and those who were dressed," a difference involving much experience and a great deal of money.

"Oh, she is quite a coat and skirt girl!" was a phrase used to me this year, which was explained as meaning that the person mentioned wore a coat and skirt every day and all days until she got into her evening dress for dinner at night. The intermediate part of the day, when people wore frivolous day-gowns, did not exist for her. In a kind of dialogue story which appeared in a recent magazine I found another definition. A girl is talking about her lover, and as he is poor, she says she supposes "she shall have to give up silk petticoats and her lovely lace and muslin flounced ones and take to plain white and those awful striped things if she marries him." Fortunately in the end that kind fate that presides over story-books steps in. An aged uncle dies, and the lover succeeds to a title and some thousands a year, and so the petticoat question is happily disposed of.

The lesson derived from these two episodes is that there is a certain kind of dress to which you must not aspire unless your dress allowance be very large, at least running into hundreds a year, and happy is the girl who is sensible enough to see and be guided by the fact in selecting her trousseau.

In this century we have to chronicle

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numbers of inventions and improvements and a general advancement in knowledge, but we women have learned perhaps more than our brothers by the teachings of science as regards our clothing. We have been earnest listeners to the many writers and teachers who have spoken to us of the distribution of the weight of our clothes and the necessity for lightening it as far as possible, and that the same equal distribution must exist where their thickness



"WEAVING SWEET THOUGHTS WITH HANDS AND BRAIN."

FIG. 1.—BOLERO SHAPED AND PLAIN UNDER-BODICE.



is concerned, so that the body might be kept warm evenly; and we have learned the respective advantages of cotton, wool, and linen. Though the rage for woollen garments has, in a measure, passed off, we have learned from it more of our real requirements than we should have otherwise learned. A great good has followed, namely, that the subject of underclothing has come to be dealt with personally by each wearer, and hence the diversity of opinion which I mentioned above at the beginning of my article, for everyone seems to have certain requirements which she must meet. So we have every kind of mixture in the way of garments.

Years ago the underlinen formed the largest portion of the trousseau. It was prepared by dozens, and a small trousseau would have from a dozen to a dozen and a half of each article. In Germany the numbers seemed fabulous that were thought needful, and included the houselinen as well. Even in England I have known women who, after thirty years of wedded life, still possessed remains of their trousseau, marked with their maiden names. Even those immense outfits for India are greatly pruned down, to the saving of our purses and the amount of our luggage.

The reason for much of this reduction may be found in the universal adoption of woven undergarments of wool, silk, cotton, and thread, or any two of them mixed together. Their popularity seems unbounded, and the



FIG. 2.—UNDER-BODICE WITH CROSSED FRONTS.

origin lay, in some degree, in the Jaeger craze; but certainly in hot countries and in others where the heat of the summer is great, the wearing of these woven silk, cotton, and thread vests was found far more satisfactory than cotton chemises next the skin. And so we find them used everywhere as well as in England, where, united with the knickerbockers, in either coloured cotton, alpaca, or serge, they seem to form the chief apparel. There is a diversity of opinion about the drawers of cotton and nainsook, but if the woven combinations be worn, they are very generally omitted, as not being at all needful.

The flannel petticoat is another garment about which there is some discussion, but not much, for it is very generally dismissed from all our wardrobes, as we do not in the least degree require its added weight, when we wear combinations of any kind; and it was the one inequality in our clothing, to avoid which we wear the drawers or combinations which certainly supply its place completely. It was the source of much over-heating when it was worn, especially to girls and children. Now, for the summer, we do better without it, and in the winter its place is occupied, where petticoats are concerned, by a silk, alpaca, or moirette skirt, lined with flannel, flannelette, or alpaca, the latter an excellent material for a lining. Otherwise, we use the ever-useful knickers, which can be purchased in any

The subject of petticoat bodices, and indeed of all forms of stay and neck coverings, and other kindred garments, is a very large one, and as, to my mind, it is closely connected with the comfort of dress, I intend to give the fullest consideration to it, for they are very needful articles, even if you do wear combinations high to the neck. Many girls have left them off for this reason, judging that they were not wanted. The old-fashioned



FIG. 4.—CHEMISES OF NAINSOOK AND FIGURED BATISTE.

petticoat or slip-bodice, made of cotton, high to the neck, with a little edging at the neck, seems to have been succeeded by a woven stockingette bodice of much the same shape, in either cotton or silk, and these seem worn. There are also several forms of low necked bodices (see Fig. 1), which are popular, but I fear many girls do not wear anything, if they use, as I have said, the combination high to the neck. Of course, where the muslin or cambric blouse has a slip-bodice, it is not needed; but otherwise, nothing can exceed the ugliness of the appearance, and the untidiness also. The very best thing for ordinary wear is a tiny kind of Bolero jacket (see Fig. 1), made of muslin and lace, which meets with a button or ties in front over the



FIG. 3.—DRAWERS TO MATCH.



FIG. 5.—CHEMISES OF SILK AND LINEN.

chest, and is long enough to cover the stays to the waist at the back. Fine nainsook for ordinary day-wear, and a good strong muslin for best, with a Valenciennes edging round it, and an insertion too, if you

like to go to the trouble and expense it will incur. With this little addition you will look quite presentable when you go to your dress-maker's. No one knows what some women look like when they go to be "tried on" at their long-suffering couturière's. The French call them *cache-corsets*, a far better name than ours, and much more descriptive. The model in Fig. 2, with crossover fronts, is a useful one, for if you do not like it as it is, you can re-model it into a Bolero, with rounded fronts, by merely standing in front of your glass, and pinning it into shape. In silk, some of these are really beautiful, being made of pink, pale blue, or white, with insertions of lace, and trimmings of pink baby-ribbon. This, however, is also to be seen as an additional ornament to the fine *batiste* and cambric ones. In fact, there is no extent of luxury to which you cannot go, in the extravagance of your linen, and I must not omit in this article to illustrate and to tell you all about these beautiful things.

The underlinen of plain cotton, trimmed with embroidery, seems to be considered entirely English, while that made of nainsook is called in our London shops, French, and is invariably trimmed with edgings



FIG. 6.—UNDER-SKIRTS.

and insertions of more or less good imitation Valenciennes. Most trousseaux contain several sets of it, as well as of white or coloured silk; both of them are, naturally, more expensive and as lasting, and of course they suffer in the hands of our rather incompetent washerwomen. But they are fashionable, and so we must consider them in our trousseau.

Fig. 4 represents three chemises, made of fine flowered *batiste*, lace-trimmed, with baby-ribbon runnings and bows. The designs and trimmings are novel, and at Fig. 3 we find the drawers to match, the upper pair being of white China-silk. All are wide at the knee, and cut in the French style, without bands at the waist. Fig. 5 shows three more chemises, made of cambric linen, embroidered in flat embroidery and pink silk, with a lace flouncing round the shoulders. Wide lace is mostly used for silk under-clothing, and tucks ornament it in great abundance, but not much insertion.

In Fig. 6 we find some examples of fine longcloth petticoats, edged with both lace and embroidery; and at Fig. 7 there are



FIG. 7.—PETTICOATS OF LACE AND MUSLIN.

some beautiful flounced and laced skirts, some of these with an upper and under flounce, which makes the effect fuller and more transparent. That great leaning towards over-trimming that makes dressing so expensive, is quite visible in this under-clothing, and every year makes it greater. To many a girl the trousseau is the one time in her life when her aspirations after the pretty and charming are satisfied, and if she have not a fair stock at her marriage of really best things, she will find it well-nigh impossible to get them afterwards.

Next to the petticoats of muslin come those of silk and others of a warmer kind. The silk ones can, I think, be made more cheaply at home; at least, I have seen a lovely accordion-pleated pink silk one, the flounce being deep and full, and the whole handsomely made at home for 28s., when it could not have been purchased for, at least, £2 10s. or perhaps more. The accordion-pleating was sent out to be done, and a good pattern was purchased, and those were the chief expenses beside the actual making.

The part of our underwear that shows least change, is, perhaps, the night-gown, which has altered little, save in the direction of increased luxury in material and trimming. The three night-gowns shown at Fig. 8 are severally of nainsook and of silk. The one at the top, on the left, is of white silk, with wide lace, and a narrow insertion; the one below it, of fine nainsook and very fine embroidery, is cut square at the neck. A large proportion of our newest night-gowns of superior quality show a tendency to this style, and are either half-high or low; and in several instances I have seen short sleeves, with a sailor collar, opened in a pointed shape. The third model here is of white silk, with frills of silk, embroidered, and edged with real lace. Fig. 9 shows the pretty

new night-dress cases that are often supplied on the Continent with the night-gowns themselves. A very general practice prevails, however, of making them of white satin, of a very large size, and edging them with deep lace. In England these ideal sachets have become a favourite wedding-present for those young ladies to make who are clever with their fingers, and do not desire to enter into any great expense.

The small dressing-jacket so much used will be seen in Fig. 10, where three are shown. They are made of *batiste*, nainsook, and silk, the latter having a tiny Bolero jacket as an additional ornament. These little jackets are extremely useful, when we do not require a larger covering, and have only to smooth our hair and wash our hands before dressing.

I have not illustrated either a tea-gown or a dressing-gown proper. In the first, the fashions change very constantly, and you are better suited by selecting what you require, and what will suit you, from the fashions of the moment, and what will answer for you best personally. The dressing-gown may be bought so very cheaply that I should advise its being purchased

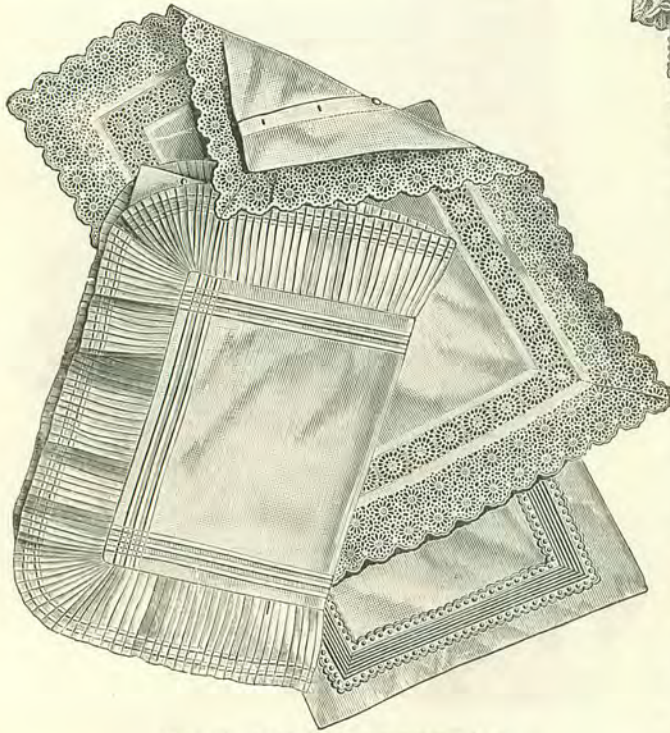


FIG. 9.—CASES FOR NIGHT-DRESSES.

This opens the whole question of purchased or home-made, in connection with the trousseau; at least, as respects the under-clothing part. In these days of out-of-door sports, of tennis and bicycling, and golf, every woman seems to have enough to do; and I hear it constantly stated that both useful and fancy work are no longer done by any-one. I am afraid it is a question which must be decided for themselves by each household, and so it must be left.

I have to conclude drawn up a list of the ordinary articles needed in a trousseau, which may be added to, or taken from, as you may choose. Since I concluded my first article, I have found, on inquiry, that some of the best West-End firms give estimates for trousseaux, and lists of items. One of the very leading houses has an estimate for a trousseau for fifty pounds, including the



FIG. 8.—NIGHT-DRESSES OF NAINSOOK AND SILK.

wedding-gown, wreath and veil, which are, I hear, put down at the cost of fifteen guineas. If I were getting a trousseau, I should write for an estimate for a price below what I wished, and then proceed to build my own edifice upon it.

The following would represent the ordinary requirements:—

Dust or driving-coat, smart cape, going-away gown, afternoon silk, or voile, tailor-made tweed, tailor-made cloth, tailor-made serge, one black satin, with three bodices, one cream satin wedding-gown, two evening-gowns (one lace), four pairs of evening shoes to match, four silk blouses, eight muslin and cotton shirts, four washing dresses, or skirts, two waistcoats, one bonnet, two best hats,

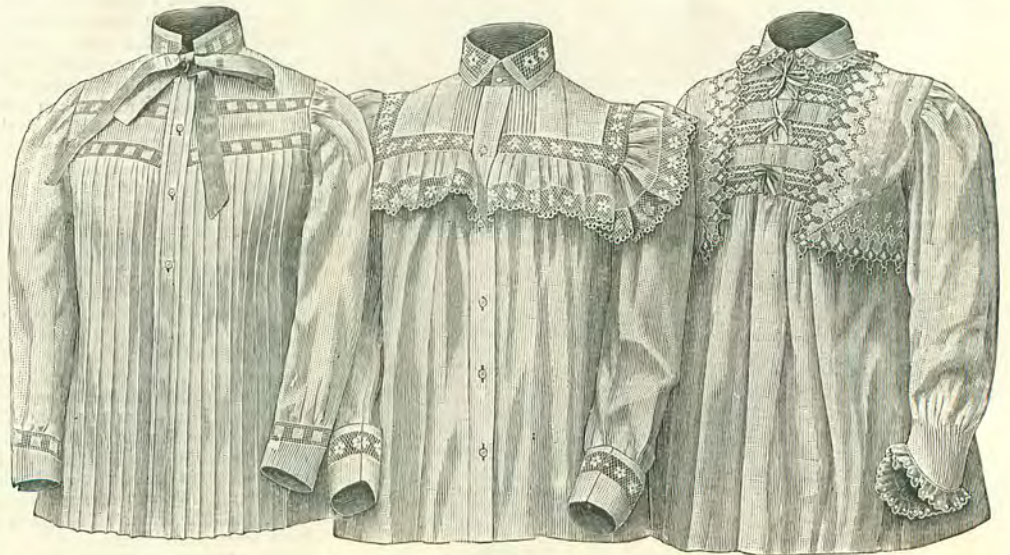


FIG. 10.—DRESSING JACKETS.

one sailor hat, one felt hat, one waterproof, one golf cape, one *entout cas*, one umbrella, one parasol, one riding habit, etc., four pairs of house shoes, two pairs of walking shoes, two pairs of boots, one pair of riding boots, one opera cloak, two tea-gowns, six dressing jackets and wrappers, one dressing gown, handkerchiefs *ad lib.*, *Suède* and kid gloves,

white and coloured, evening, driving, chamois, and dog-skin, four knickers, silk, satin, alpaca, or serge, four silk petticoats, four long-cloth petticoats, four muslin petticoats, two ordinary petticoats, six merino combinations, six woven silk, or cotton, twelve chemises, silk, cotton, or nainsook, twelve pairs of drawers, silk, cotton, or nainsook, four pairs of corsets, eight

under-bodices, twelve pairs of stockings, black or tan thread, six pairs of cashmere or cotton stockings, two pairs of silk stockings, six cotton night-gowns, four best silk or nainsook night-gowns, four flannelette night-gowns.

This list would be a guide for the most moderate, as well as for an expensive trousseau.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE DREAM.

BY GERTRUDE PAGE.

It was New Year's Eve and I sat in the fire-light. Outside the stars were shining brilliantly, for it was frosty and I had watched them for a few minutes, thinking idly of the Old Year that was dying and the New Year that would soon be here. Afterwards I curled up in a huge arm-chair and watched the flames flickering, and so a dream came to me. And in my dream I heard someone tapping at the window. At first I took no notice, but as the tapping came again, I rose and looked out. I saw no one, but opened the window, and as I did so, there passed silently into the room the Spirit of the Dying Year. And methought he motioned to me to sit down again, so I took the arm-chair and the Spirit stood beside me. And it seemed in my dream that a brooding sadness crept into the room—the sadness of which the key-note is "Farewell."

I felt as if I was watching by a friend's death-bed, and I knew that that friend was the dying year. I knew that in a little while he would be gone into the "Past Eternity." Infinite space and infinite time stretched before, infinite space and infinite time stretched behind, yet in my dream all this was as nothing beside that one hour of "Farewell."

And I looked up at the Old Year—my Old Year—and it seemed that he looked down wistfully upon me with a pleading expression. And presently he spoke to me; he said—

"Only a few short hours and we must part for ever. Only a few short hours and I must close a page in your life's history, and seal it ready to be delivered into the hands of the Creator. And all the time I have been with you, you have been too busy to think of me. The rush and stir of hourly being has so occupied your mind that I—Time—have been allowed to pass unheeded.

"You have let me speed past you in my youthful spring-time, in my gladsome summer, in my wistful autumn, in my failing winter, and you have scarcely stopped to give me one thought. And yet I have been a true friend. Every hour when you were actuated by a noble purpose I have faithfully recorded, and where they have been few my tears have blotted the page. And the unworthy and wasted hours have been unchronicled but as blanks. The Master does not want to be told of those. We rejoice together over the full page of well-spent hours, and pass in sad yet eloquent silence the pages that are blank. A few hours are left; will you not pause now, before the New Year and its rush comes upon you, to think of those pages that are blanks?"

And in my dream I reached out my hand softly, for somehow the Old Year seemed very dear to me.

"Old Year," I said, "tell me how I can make up for those blank pages? I did not mean to forget; twelve months ago I meant to fill you with noble thoughts and actions, but somehow the rush and fret of hourly being was too much for me. I meant such great things, Old Year, I had such high aspirations, but I did not know, and the learning has not

been easy. I did not know how the little daily cares would smother my aspirations, nor how the disappointments and bare realities of life would crush my ambitions down into the dust. I did not know how the commonplace, everyday life would seem to fold me round and hold me down when I wanted to soar. Old Year," I said, and I felt my voice tremble, "tell me why I have failed so utterly? Why you have come and gone and I have done nothing and been nothing of all that I intended?"

Then methought the Old Year drew a little nearer and leaned towards me tenderly.

"Shall I tell you the truth?" he asked, and I murmured an assent.

Then he continued—

"Perchance it was that you tried to run before you could walk. You wanted to be faithful in the big things, before you had learnt to be faithful in the small. It is not the great things that are always the most difficult. Sometimes the little daily trials are the ones that need all our strength. Did you soar too high at the beginning, think you? and not having learnt to use your wings fall quickly to the ground?"

I leaned my face on my hand and looked thoughtfully into the fire.

"Old Year," I said presently, "I can't bear the thought of being just nothing. I would do so much if only I saw the way and had the opportunity. I would live so that everyone blessed my name, and when I died the poor and the oppressed should mourn me with one consent. And instead, Old Year, week after week I achieve nothing and get no nearer my goal, and so I lose heart and say it is no use trying. A mocking voice seems to say to me, 'What is the use of you trying? you have no possible greatness in you at all; much better go with the throng and not care.'" And I looked up earnestly, for it had been with aching pain I had given up my dreams.

The Old Year was quiet a moment; then he said, "Which is the easier, think you? to spend your substance and your life and energies on behalf of your fellow-creatures and have all men hail your name with love and reverence, or yearning to do these things, have the opportunity denied you, and yet be content.

"In the former case, the sympathy and admiration of friends, and the sense of being something better than a mere name, more than makes up for the weariness and self-denial, and in the latter case, there is only the bitter sense of failure and unworthiness, without a word of sympathy or perhaps one kindred heart to understand.

"Shall the All-knowing One forget this, think you? Maybe, if you could lay down those yearning hopes of yours without a murmur, and be content to take the lowest seat and bend all your energies to the fulfilment of the little daily duties, you would be as great and worthy in God's eyes as if the whole earth hailed you blessed and knelt down before you. 'They also serve who only stand and wait.' God's ways are very mysterious.

Man pants and strives and yearns to do something great for Him, and He tells him to 'stand and wait.'

"Maybe He honours him in thus giving him the hardest task by which to prove his love, and in return man cries out in his blindness that God has let his ambitions die and refused his service. Maybe the opportunity God offers is greater than any the man's dreams had pictured, and he, because he will not trust Him and be lowly, lets the opportunity pass and another win the crown that he might have had. For this life is not all, and Death is but the portal of a fuller life beyond. What if, in that after life, there were a position of trust and honour which God would have him fill, and for which the hard lesson to 'stand and wait' must of necessity be learnt?"

He paused, and I pressed nearer.

"Go on," I said earnestly; "I had not thought of it like that, and no one helped me, for no one understood."

"What else shall I say," he asked, "but that you must trust Him more? Is it possible that a pure, whole-hearted ambition to be noble could remain unnoticed? Only be content to do the duty that lies next to you, as well as you possibly can, instead of yearning after service perhaps meant for others, and as sure as Heaven is above, and God is God, you shall have your reward in due season, if not in this life, then in the next."

"Old Year, I will try," I murmured, with tears gathering in my eyes, "but it will be very hard sometimes, for the little cares and trials are so wearying."

"Therefore your service is the greater. Would you have the victory without the stern warfare of battle? What honour is there in an achievement which has cost you nothing?"

"Must you go, Old Year?" I urged, as he seemed about to leave me. "Stay yet a little while."

"I may not stay," he answered. "Time waits for none, and the great army of 'Years Gone By' is calling me."

"Then leave me some token to help me," I pleaded, "for in the New Young Year that is coming no one will know me or my need as you do."

Then methought he took a slip of paper and laid it on my lap, and on it was written—

"We cannot all be heroes,
And thrill a hemisphere
With some great daring venture,
Some deed that mocks at fear;
But we can fill our daily lives,
With kindly acts and true;
There's always noble service
For noble souls to do."

* * * * *

"Good-bye," he murmured softly. "Be of good courage."

"Good-bye, Old Year, good-bye," I answered, and then he went out through the night.