

LUGGAGE UP TO DATE.

BY DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.



THERE is nothing in which people differ so much as in their estimate of the amount of luggage they require for all the occasions of life. The general idea of to-day seems to be combination and condensation. The first is carried to such an extent that we do not appear perfectly happy unless we run two things into one somewhere, and our travelling-bags are perfect marvels of condensation.

The progress of new ideas is much marked in our luggage. To-day we rather aspire to dandyism, but a very few years ago it was quite the thing to show portman-teaus and trunks covered with the

luggage and hotel labels of the known world, and things could not look too travelled and too battered, so long as they were sound. Their aspect proved that we were the true British globe-trotters. We have changed all that now, and the hotel-keepers have, it is said, to paste on their gay labels on the sly, for people dislike to have their luggage disfigured; and all trunks are now carefully cleaned, and often revarnished or blackened, to restore them to the fashionable appearance of newness.

The old days, when our trunks were carefully labelled "Passenger to London," or anywhere else, have also passed away, and the world of travel declines to be labelled, or even, in many cases, to have an address put on, and I see, in a recent daily paper, that this causes many scenes of confusion at the railway stations, where four people were lately seen claiming one trunk, which was finally carried off by a fifth who arrived late on the platform. This new departure seems absurd, and it is always better to have the initials put on in white paint in a conspicuous place. Many people also add a distinguishing mark, such as a cross, or a band round the trunk of white, or one or two colours. Others are still old-fashioned enough to write a fully descriptive label, with name and destination, and paste it on everything. But I must confess that, personally, I do not like this survival from the antique at all, nor is it needful, if the trunks be properly marked with initials.

The naming of the luggage as a whole has also become a characteristic thing. Many years ago people spoke of their boxes. Now that term is left exclusively to the domestic servant, and the smart woman speaks of her "things," the military man says "baggage" to the end of his days, and the Americans use the same term, the man who attends to it being known throughout America as the baggage-man, luggage being exclusively English. The ordinary person says trunks, or luggage indiscriminately. The dress-basket seems an exclusively English affair, and nothing would induce us to take to the huge American "Saratoga," which is an awful infliction to the suffering porters.

One of the most fashionable trunks of the day is the "state room," as the Americans say; or the cabin trunk, as we say, and this, in various sizes and shapes, is the most used, I think, for Continental travel, as it is portable alike for rail and road, and is not too bulky. It bears knocking about, too, while it does not encourage it from its harmless appearance. One of the variations of the cabin trunk is a small flat one called a visiting-case, which contains just enough for the week's-end visit. Now that the railway companies have begun to tax our luggage this shape is a good one, being flat enough to fit under the seat of the railway carriage, and so will travel scot free. It has attractions, too, for a short Continental visit, where all the luggage is weighed, and where they have been known to

take hand-baggage out of the compartment if they considered it too heavy. This was one of our last adventures with our hold-all in a journey through the Italian lakes, and they charged three francs for carrying it in the van.

There seems a consensus of opinion in favour of several pieces of small luggage in place of one big trunk, and the modern Englishwoman practises severe condensation for short journeys, in which she is assisted by the fashion for coats and skirts and pretty blouses. The visitor to the German baths or the French watering-places is obliged to take some finer feathers, and has to enlarge the borders of her trunks.

I think one of the most important things is to have a pretty hat or bonnet, and have a good and recently made bonnet-box, or (as I find people calling them) a hat-box. This should have patent wire shapes upon which to pin the hat. So when purchasing you should look to the fastenings of these, as some kinds are quite worthless. Personally I prefer those that are movable, and take in and out with a spring catch. Choose a good one, however, when you are buying, and do not omit to have a tray at the top, which is a great addition to your comfort, as in it you should carry veils, gloves, and handkerchiefs. The assumption of the pretty best hat or bonnet seems "to crown the edifice," and covers up a less smart frock; but it will not do to carry this too far, as there is an unpleasant Yorkshire proverb about "a ha'penny head and a farthing tail!" But directly you get out of girlhood the bonnet or hat becomes of importance. Some people have adopted the plan of carrying an extra hat-trimming, and some additional flowers for the bonnet, with which they can refresh them, when much journeying has made them look shabby. In this case one hat is enough to take, and you will not need a hat-box. But the weight of a good hat-box is small, and you will do well to have something else behind you.

The subject of weight leads me to the compressed cane trunks, which can be had in many varied shapes, and appear to be excellent in their capacity to resist wear and tear. But they are still rather expensive, and many people do not like their colour, though, in the way of lightness, they are wonderful. After all, it seems better to spend liberally on your luggage, for it lasts so much longer, and will do-up more than once to look like new.

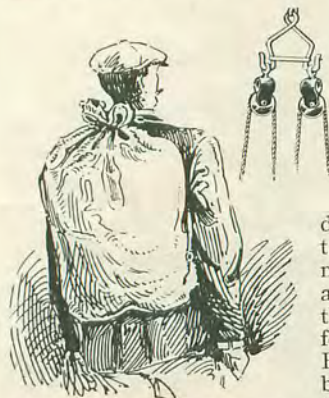
One of the traditional pieces of hand-luggage, which is much endeared to the female heart, is the hold-all, and certainly it does do that, with the result that we obtain a most bulky and awkward piece of luggage, weighty and thoroughly difficult and uncomfortable either to open or to close. The English hold-all is made of brown canvas, bound with leather and furnished with stout straps. Inside there are two pockets, which divide the hold-all between them, and in the space between these there are generally placed two small straps, in which the umbrellas and parasols of the family can be secured, which stick out at either end about a foot, to the danger of the people who are travelling with them, and even at the risk of wounding the carrier with their spiky points, and running the chance of breakage. Such bundles are quite impossible to lift down from the nettings in the railway carriages. They are too heavy for a girl to lift, and too big to open if the carriage be full or even partially so. Thus they are only really available at night on arrival. I have constantly seen people cross the Channel in a half-starved condition from lack of wraps, sooner than unstrap the unwieldy hold-all, and have to restrap it in an hour or two.

It was after an experience of our own of this sort that I first attempted to abolish the hold-all, and we have done very well without it so far, and we always have our rugs at hand, because we carry, each of us, our own over our arm, and we have in our bags a sufficiently long strap to go round the two rugs, if we wish to make one parcel of them.

The other contents of the hold-all we pack into the trunks or the bag, and we have invested in a proper umbrella-case in brown canvas, which is tube-like in form, and has a cap at one end, which fastens with a strong strap, and has a handle by which to hold it. Lately these umbrella-holders are more often called golf-cases, because they have been adopted for that game, but they were originally made for umbrellas, and very useful they are, and as a protection for them and the parasols they are delightful. The method of carrying them with a set of straps and no cover resulted in great damage to them both in the way of wear and tear to the silk, and also in the frequent result of broken ribs, for if the straps were drawn too tightly there was nothing to prevent the ribs being broken by the pressure of the straps. So we find the umbrella-case, which is a quite "up-to-date" article of luggage, a great success, and the cost is very small indeed—under ten shillings.

Of the same order of things as the hold-all, the knapsack may be mentioned, which used to be such a favourite article for Alpine travel some years ago, but which seems to have been superseded, now that the post-office in Switzerland undertakes the carriage of luggage, large and small, and is remarkable for its punctual delivery of it at any mountain resort. Last year I was struck with the value of the Austrian "ruck-sack," and saw a great number of them in the Tyrol and in Switzerland.

Here in England they can be obtained made of Willesden canvas, price seven and sixpence, and I give an illustration of one, as they are really an ideal companion, and could be carried to their destination rolled up, and taken out and packed when needed. They are lighter and less cumbersome than the knapsack. Next to them for convenience we have in England the lawyer's black bag, to which ladies have this year largely taken as a useful bag, when made of satin or brocade, and it



AN AUSTRIAN "RUCK-SACK."

hangs, like the reticule, on the arm. The lawyer's bag is famed for its convenience, and its contents are very varied.

The modern girl is said to be the greatest advocate of the hold-all, which she considers really does hold everything; and as she has all kinds of outfits to carry for cycling, golf, tennis, and croquet, and numberless shoes, the hold-all may be her ideal. But so far as I see, she prefers the Gladstone bag for travelling, just as her brother does; and it is a very comfortable thing to travel with, and holds cloth and serge suits very well. But it has one drawback—that the railway officials will not take it (that is, check it) in some parts, particularly in Italy.

I am not very fond of the fitted travelling bag. I prefer to select my own fittings, and have the empty bag, which must not be too small because it should afford sufficient space for essentials, for, at least, two nights, away from your trunks. The fitted bag is very heavy, and the fittings never seem to be what you require. The small courier-bags, slung over the shoulder, or the waist-bags which are used by American ladies, are always most useful, and hold the tickets, purse, and other necessaries, and save the trouble of opening the larger bag continually. But if in the habit of carrying much money with you, I should counsel you to get a regular money-belt, or else make it for yourself out of wash-leather. A stout under-pocket is also often used and is, perhaps, quite as safe.

Now, no article would be complete without a notice of the useful lunch and tea baskets, which have become so popular that they form a part of everyone's travelling kit. Some of the most delightful of them have been arranged

and furnished at home, and these generally answer both purposes, but labour under the disadvantage of not being fitted for boiling the kettle *en route*. This is one of the real comforts of travelling.

And next to them come the hot-water bottle and the air-cushion, and many people travel with a soft pillow. An *en-tout-cas* is more useful than an umbrella for travelling, for it will supply the place of both umbrella and parasol, and is sufficient for short journeys.

Articles needed for travelling are a towel, soap, matches, and a candle. Liebig or Bovril, potted meat for sandwiches, a little brandy, and some simple medicines. Hot water bag, air-cushion, and (if no tea-basket, then) a kettle, and spirit lamp, tea, and biscuits. A small pocket compass, glycerine, sal volatile, seidlitz powders, eau de Cologne, and mustard leaves. Condensed milk, and a tin opener, soap-box, sponge-bag, and sponge. Smelling salts, slippers, a melon cushion on which to rest the head.

Those who travel much should, I think, make a permanent list of the things they require, to help their memories.

Luggage may be divided into the following lists:—

For visiting.—Dress-basket, hat-box, umbrella-case, dressing-bag, flat cabin, or state-room trunk.

Holidays.—A flat visiting case or cabin trunk, hat-box, umbrella-case for umbrellas, mallets and sticks, bathing-gown.

Voyages.—Deck-chair, cushion, rugs, probably a hold-all, fur-lined cloak, and flannel dressing-gown, cabin trunk, hot water bottle, saratoga (if for America), soiled linen bag for long voyage, hot water bag. You had better leave rugs, steamer chair and all heavy clothing at the office of steamer company in New York, as much hand-baggage is impossible in either America or Canada, for there are no porters, and you have to carry everything for yourself, unless the conductor takes pity on you.

And now someone inquires, "What about books?" Well, on the Continent you have the Tauchnitz edition, and in America paper-covered books are cheaper than anywhere else. A recent adviser on this subject says you are to "take the most difficult you have read of George Meredith's works, and struggle with it again." But I am never equal to more than the lightest literature, for I want to rest both eyes and mind, and leave problems and epigrams at home.

Amongst "lost luggage" we may enumerate the yellow tin box, or, indeed, the tin box of any colour, which was a favoured and fashionable trunk for many years, and specially devoted to dress-carrying in the sixties. The yellow tin box is now the servants' property, and is also devoted to family papers and silver; while the army absorbs the japanned boxes, and devotes them to uniforms and cocked hats.

In ancient days, and in ancient novels, we find the heroine arrives with her trunks and "Imperials." The latter denoted that there were no railways, and she travelled in her own carriage, where the Imperial covered the top of it, and is big enough, though not deep, to make modern people stare. I have paid a visit to one lately, which made the "Grand Tour" several times a hundred years ago, and was last used in the fifties.

Amongst other lost properties is the carpet bag, which survives in name for a class of venial politicians in America, but is now unseen in the busy haunts of the traveller, and reposes with the Imperial in the loft. It used to be made of Brussels carpet, and was sometimes extremely pretty, though why they made it of carpet we do not quite know, save that it was a strong material. In the latter days of its life it was devoted to children, and to boots and shoes. It has a recognised successor in the "soiled clothes bag" of brown canvas, used on long voyages; but as they have taken to washing on board many ships, this too, will soon perhaps be a remembrance only. A very pleasant survival of old East Indian travellers is the camphor or cedar-wood trunk, of capacious size, for in it our furs and woollens can rest in safety, free from fear of moth. Safely careened in dark corners of the loft, too, we may find the solid leather portmanteau which was the favourite article of the old

soldier, and is so yet; but they are without the black leather case which distinguished the early ones, and which bore upon it, you may safely assert, the legend "Capt. So-and-So, H.M. 81st Foot." They were Waterloo and Peninsular days when they were used, and I know of some survivals laid up in lavender.

Now when, or where, or wherefore women first began to clothe their trunks in garments of brown linen, with trappings of red braid, I do not know; but there are some people who use them yet, though they may be considered to belong to the Ichthyosaurus or some of the pre-historic eras. When we went to the last Paris Exhibition, one of our party had her trunk arrayed in this manner, and the French porters greatly marvelled at it, and were so suspicious of it that they would have it taken off to see if there were an infernal machine beneath it. These covers were

believed to keep the trunk clean, and nearly all trunks had them years ago.

In those days people chose their oldest gowns and their shabbiest bonnets to travel in, and indeed made a regular collection of old clothes for their voyages. It was hardly thought proper to look nice, and the first people who really dressed for travelling were the Americans, who adopted a material called carmelite for a travelling gown, an excellent choice in every way. Since then we English have introduced the tailor-made, and its successor the coat and skirt, but I must warn my readers that this ideal dress even has a tendency to look dowdy, if not carefully made and worn; and there is a baggy look about the back that is fatal to smartness. All coats should fit snugly at the waist behind, and should be made to do so by means of hooks and eyes, or an invisible elastic.

VARIETIES.

TWO MUSICAL EPITAPHS.

Here are two musical epitaphs. The first is on Stephen the fiddler:—

"Stephen and Time are now both even,
Stephen beat Time, now Time's beat Stephen."

The other is on Thomas Merideth the organist, and is to be found in St. Mary's Winton College at Oxford:—

"Here lies one, blown out of breath,
Who lived a merry life and died a Merideth."

ONE OF THE THREE BAD WIVES.

When somewhat mature in years, John Wesley, the famous founder of Wesleyan Methodism, married a very illiterate widow with four children and a comfortable income. She was a "woman of sorrowful spirit." The courtship lasted sixteen days at the most.

The widow was no angel; she was indeed—in the language of St. Paul—a messenger of Satan sent to buffet her unfortunate husband. Southey, who wrote Wesley's life, says of her that "she deserves to be classed with Xantippe and the wife of Job, as one of the three bad wives."

YOUTH IS TO BE ENJOYED.—Not to innocently enjoy one's youth when one is young is to imitate the miser who starves beside his treasures.

LOSS MAY BRING GAIN.—There is a positive gain in some kinds of loss. The solid block of fine marble loses certain portions of its mass, and a statue stands forth, multiplying the value of the original block a thousandfold. The jewel suffers loss in being engraved; its very heart feels the steely point of the graver as the image or inscription that is to endure for ever is made upon it by the removal of its integral substance; but its intrinsic value is immeasurably enhanced. So the girl who meets her trials bravely gains in strength and character, though she may be losing in many other ways.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

Meek faith converts the couch of pain
Into a bed of roses,
For there we moral vigour gain
To bear what God disposes.

ADVICE TO SINGERS.—According to the late Mr. Sims Reeves, the distinguished tenor, one should never sing after a long walk, or when in a state of lassitude or fatigue. Pastry, he says, is an invention of the enemy; plain food is best. Lozenges for the voice are to be avoided. Sugar and water, or a little glycerine, gives relief when the throat is inclined to be dry. About a third of a teaspoonful of Condy's fluid in a tumbler of water, if used as a gargle every morning, will clear the throat and brace up the uvula. Sea water will be found a splendid strengthener of the throat if used occasionally.

HOW SHE INDORSED THE CHEQUE.

She handed the cheque to the bank clerk. She was calm and collected as if it were an everyday matter.

"Madam," said the clerk gently, "you have forgotten to indorse it."

"Indorse it?" with a little worried smile.

"Yes; you must write your name on the back here to show that you will repay this bank in case the issuer of the cheque should fail to answer our call."

"Oh!" she said, accepting the pen.

When the clerk looked at the cheque again, this is what he read—

"The — bank has always paid up what it owes, and you will need have no worry. Therefore I indorse this cheque. Very truly yours, Mrs. J. B. Blank."

TRY TO BE GOOD.—In doing our very best to be good ourselves, we bring tremendous unconscious influence to bear on everyone around us. No one can meet a girl who transparently and constantly tries to do her duty without being either spurred or shamed by the encounter.

ONLY A GLIMPSE.

Papa: "By the way, who is the lady that bowed to us as we left the carriage?"

Dorothy: "The one with the black silk skirt, the rose petticoat, plaid silk waist, purple collarette with silver clasp, tan coat, black hat with purple tips, carrying a silver-trimmed card-case?"

Papa: "Yes."

Dorothy: "I don't know, I just caught a glimpse of her."

CHILDREN IN JAPAN.—A writer on Japan says that the Mikado's Empire is a paradise for the aged and for children. Grey hairs are always respectable, and children with shaven heads, bright black eyes, rosy brown cheeks, play and frolic where they will, in highways or quiet places. They are never interfered with or molested. There are no bad words or ill tempers; all is hearty fun and frolic. Even the poor coolie, with his heavy burden, will go a long distance round rather than disturb a child's play.

"HE'S A CHALYBEATE."—Some queer mistakes are made by those who use big words without understanding their meaning. A verger was showing a lady over a church when she asked him if the vicar was a married man. "No, ma'am," he answered; "he's a chalybeate!"

A TOWN GIRL IN THE COUNTRY.

City Girl (pointing to a wild plant by the wayside): "What's that?"

Country Cousin: "That's milkweed."

City Girl: "Oh, yes, that's what you feed the cows on."

POSSIBLE GAINS.—We may gain as much by avoiding the failures of others as we do by imitating that in which they excel.