

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

WOMEN AS GOVERNMENT CLERKS.—It is said that several of the women-clerks in the various departments in Washington are to be, or have been, discharged. It cannot be for incompetency, for women can copy documents with as much facility as men; and are equally at home with accounts when they have been well educated. That they are at their work as early and as late is supposable, and as seldom asking excuse for absence.

Where must we look, then, for the reasons for this cutting off? Mrs. Swisshelm, the pioneer on the question of Woman's Rights, so called, has given her ideas on the subject, in a long and well written article in one of the Washington papers, and we think she is peculiarly happy in her arguments.

Men, she says, do not carry the graces and the dress of the parlor or the ball-room into the counting-room, or office. Women, she is sorry to say, too often do. We can testify to the truth of the assertion—having seen women elaborately crinolined and water-falled, if we may use the expression, mounting the Treasury-steps, displaying their richest dresses, and their most fascinating smiles to all within the circle of their attractions.

It might not answer to dilate upon the consequences of these things. Possibly some weak-headed clerks are rendered dilatory in their business; perhaps there are silly flirtations going on now and then. The ladies may expect to be waited upon; and the gentlemen, accustomed as all American men are to show deference to the other sex, (all honor to them for it,) are drawn from their duties to escort them, perhaps to hold the umbrella in a rain-storm, and in numberless ways to treat them, not as fellow-clerks, but as parlor ladies.

Mrs. Swisshelm is right. Women should go to their daily duties with no thought but how best to perform them. Elaborate toilets are out of place in government offices, or in the store; and, to our mind, a dress got up solely with regard to the display it makes, and the sensation it creates, only shows that its wearer is weak-headed, if not wrong-hearted.

Another trial is, that the many have to suffer for the few in such cases. One flirt, one giggler, one dashing be-curled and berouged woman, may do enough mischief to spoil the prosperity of a dozen of the sisterhood. We think our women, in the main, have right notions of propriety—of the fitness of things. Some of the women-clerks in Washington are the widows and daughters of soldiers, who have laid down their lives for their country—women who have neither the heart nor the means to make show-figures of themselves; and we trust that a true discrimination will be made, and those who know and respect all the needs of their position, will still retain the offices that Government has allotted to them. There should be, and we trust there are, no mean jealousies on the part of men better fitted to pursue more laborious occupations. Those handsome, warm, and attractive offices, as many of them are, should be equally open to the women of our land, who are fully competent to perform the required duties. It should be one of the duties of Government to provide for and foster those who cannot so easily care for themselves. All honor to the country that guards equally, from the miseries of poverty, her sons and her daughters.

ADDITIONS TO CLUBS.—Additions may be made to clubs for "Peterson" at the price paid by the rest of the club.

LADY'S NIGHT-DRESS WITH REVERS.—Among the wood-engravings, in the front of this number, is a pattern for a lady's night-dress with revers. To make this garment, take four and a half yards of long-cloth; two and three-quarters yards of insertion; and three yards of scalloped embroidery. The front is pleated on each side upon the shoulders, and ornamented with revers of the same material, stitched all round and trimmed with insertion and embroidery. The narrow collar and cuffs are trimmed to match. There are two and one-third widths of long-cloth, which, after being joined, should be sloped from the bottom to the top.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.—Lee & Shepard, Boston, have lately published several excellent books for the young; among them, "The Yankee Middy," by Oliver Optic; "Fairy Book," by Sophie May; and "Dotty Dimple," by the same author. Both of these latter belong to the "Little Purdy Series." A. Williams & Co., Boston, have published "Millicent Halford," by Martha Remick, a story of Kentucky in the first year of the late war. Tomlinson Brothers, Chicago, have published "Luke Darrell," a tale of a Chicago newsboy. These books are all neatly printed.

MUFFS are made now of such small dimensions, that it will soon be impossible to find room for the hands in them. Velvet muffs are especially little. A black velvet muff, bordered with ermine, is now worn with every description of toilet, three bands being placed around each muff. Dark red velvet muffs are more original than the black velvet ones, and they are trimmed with bands of Canadian sable with long tails. Red velvet, like black, can be worn with almost every colored dress, but such a muff is only in good taste with a very elegant toilet.

AN AFTERNOON DRESS has just come out in Paris, made of black and blue striped satin, without any trimming upon the skirt, but with a tunic or second skirt made of blue-velvet, opening in front, and simply trimmed with small *rouleaux* of blue satin. The bodice, which was entirely of blue-velvet, was cut in one piece with this tunic. At the top of the sleeves there was a small velvet frill bound with satin, and underneath the frill a tight sleeve, made with the striped blue and blue satin.

DRESSING THE HAIR.—Whatever fashion may be in vogue, the darker shades of hair should be dressed as smooth and made to look as glossy as possible; whilst on the other hand, the fair and golden locks should be opened up and dressed as lightly and zephyr-like as possible. Curl and flowing wave, not "crimps," catching the rays of light, are the peculiar attractions of light hair.

BODICES, for the present, for both in-door and morning dresses, are worn high and plain, just as they have been during the last eighteen months; the coat-sleeve remains unaltered, except that it is cut narrower and closer to the arm; the epaulets have given place to mere shoulder-straps, and even the cuffs, in several instances, are abolished.

DRESSES IN PARIS are made with decidedly narrower and shorter skirts than have been seen for many years.

WHETHER MORE FALSE JEWELRY or more false hair is worn at the present day would be a curious question to solve.