

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

HOW TO BE PRETTY.—Every woman naturally wishes to look pretty. It is an affectation when a girl says she does not care whether she is handsome or not. All true women do care. As a recent writer has said:—"The immutable laws of her being have made physical attractiveness as much a natural glory to her as strength is to man."

More than this. Many a woman grows ugly, because she fancies she is not handsome, and becomes soured, if not peevish, in consequence. The thought of being ill-flavored embitters hundreds of young girls. We have seen plenty of shy, awkward misses, who would have been quite at ease, and infinitely charming, if it had not been for this. Yet any woman, except the one in ten thousand who is actually hideous, can make herself look more or less pretty. A celebrated belle is reported to have said that the consciousness of being well-dressed converted the plainest woman into a handsome one. She only wished to say a smart thing; but she said a very true one.

How often do we see an elder sister, who has come to be looked on, at five-and-twenty, as a confirmed "old maid!" She wears dark, sad-colored dresses, and without being untidy, neglects every little art of the toilet. You look at her, and think her ugly. She dresses her hair so plainly that it increases the hollowness of her cheek. But let her, on some rare occasion, say the marriage of a sister, attire herself becomingly, and you are quite persuaded that she is the handsomest of the family. You see another girl, a really pretty one, who has pale golden hair, that is drab-colored hair, and who has heard that people with fair hair ought to wear blue. But she puts on a blue too dark, which does not impart a scrap of yellow to her hair, and looks frightful in consequence. Another girl wears white, in a room which has been newly hung with one of those dazzling isinglass papers now so much in fashion: she appears almost dirty by contrast; she looks sallow; and to crown all, she carries a blue fan, which gives her the color of a five-dollar gold piece. Another has a dark complexion, is thin and short, and wears a satin dress the exact hue of her face, with flounces up to her waist, and a panier as big as herself. Here are four women, each looking less pretty than she might, and simply because none know how to dress!

Why, if a woman has a neck like a skeleton, will she wear a low dress? Or why, if her arms are as thin as a broom-stick, will she appear in short sleeves? Or why, if she is excessively stout, will she sport an exaggerated Dolly Varden? Why, if very tall, will she take the arm of the smallest man in the room? Or why, if she has no color, will she wear red? Or, if her hair is red, why will she have a pink dress? Or why will small, sprightly women attempt to be stately, instead of natural? Why will a tall, noble-looking woman walk, with mincing steps, like another Fenella? Or a fat woman dress in glaring colors? Or—but we might go on forever—so we stop.

A woman must choose suitable colors and shapes for herself, and, as far as possible, think also of the room she is to appear in, for if the parlor is a glaring one, as so many are now, the dress, as a rule, should be dark. It is a curious fact that there are thousands of girls, with really artistic tastes in other things, who do not know how to dress. They go through life looking like "guys" when they might look absolutely charming. They learn many things, useful and otherwise, but never learn what, in some senses, is most useful of all, to look pretty.

FOR HANGING-BASKETS line with moss with a little soil attached. Place in the center a small pot containing a showy plant of upright habit; fill up the surrounding space with rich woods and old hot-bed soil; fill in with plants of a climbing or trailing habit; when the center fades, you can replace it by a fresh plant. In filling a basket, select plants of a similar nature—such as like shade and moisture—the fuchsia, lobelia, ivy, geraniums, ivies, linaria, panicum, balsams, gold and silver vinca, ferns. A basket for a hot, sunny situation should be filled with Coleus for center, also double petunia, sedums, convolvulus minor, nasturtiums, begonia, mignonette for trailing. A carnation will make a constant blooming center—a coleus a brilliant one.

IT IS RATHER VULGAR, as a correspondent says, to wear diamonds, or any other expensive jewelry, in morning costume. It is equally vulgar to wear such ornaments at church. We are quite aware that many ladies of wealth and position wear diamond ear-rings in the mornings, and sport expensive jewels at church; but this does not make the practice well-bred. It is only proper to display such luxuries, if a woman happens to possess them, at a dinner-party, or in evening costume: to wear them at any other time is pretentious and out of taste.

"TAKEN IN."—A lady writes to us:—"This year I was induced to subscribe for a magazine, which made the most astonishing promises, offering to give everything. Never will I be so 'taken in' again. There were no steel engravings, no colored patterns, and only about two-thirds as much reading matter as in 'Peterson.' Your magazine, compared with it, would be cheap at three times the price. I inclose two dollars for 'Peterson,' and you may consider me a life subscriber."

"CONQUERED BUT NOT SUBDUED" is an engraving that tells its own story. It is from a picture of very great reputation, by a celebrated English artist. Each face, as will be seen, has a character of its own, and differs in expression. Our engravers, Messrs. Illman & Brothers, deserve great credit for the faithfulness and spirit with which they have rendered it.

TO HAVE GOOD MANNERS you must begin at home. Be respectful and polite there, and you will be the same when you go out. Habit is everything. A surly husband, or brother, is apt to forget himself, and be surly elsewhere. On the contrary, one who is self-sacrificing at home, will be, unconsciously, well-bred abroad.

IN THE FRONT OF THE NUMBER, in addition to our usual engraving of "Children's Fashions," we give various other illustrations on the same subject. Among them are coats, cloaks, sacques, etc. The engravings are so much in detail, that a description is unnecessary. We also give a new style for dressing the hair.

BE EARLY IN THE FIELD.—You cannot begin too soon to get up clubs for 1873. Every year ladies write, saying, "If I had begun earlier, I could have done better." Begin early, therefore, this year. All the newspapers declare that "Peterson's Magazine is the cheapest and best."

OUR NOVELETS for 1873 will be more than usually brilliant and interesting.