

We should never turn a deaf ear to the fulsome twaddle of an old nurse, when descanting upon the wonderful virtues of some medicinal "yarb," because she is ignorant and we are dignified.

Professor Mitchell said, when on this subject, "Do not take shelter in dogmatism, and despise, or pretend to despise, the knowledge which is unknown to you. This is just the spirit which has retarded the progress of medicine, until it lags, as a science, behind every other. Never, therefore, neglect the hints which come to you from even the most insignificant sources. Dignity, indeed! Wherever or whenever was dignity hurt in doing or endeavoring to do good? Dignity! How often it is to be interpreted pride and indolence."

DRESSMAKING HINTS.

DRESS FOR ELDERLY LADIES.—It is difficult, in these days of killed and flounced skirts, bunched-up paniers, and extremely close-fitting bodices, to arrange costumes suitable for elderly ladies, gracefully as well as fashionably, light to wear, and yet of handsome materials. A great many elderly ladies wear Princess polonaises over skirts with two or more plaited flounces. The skirts are of satin or silk, and the polonaises of cashmere, broché silk, satin merveilleux, foulard, or grenadine, according to the occasion or the weather. Black lace and jet passementerie are used profusely or sparsely, according to taste, and loops of satin, moiré, or gros-grain ribbon. Many polonaises are open in front below the waist, drawn back, and caught up in a few horizontal folds on the hips, the back being slightly draped in two or three places. The side-pieces, drawn from the front, form points; the trimming, whether lace or a silk band, is carried down the front on each side from the neck and back to the hips. Sometimes the skirt worn with this has a few very deep plaits in front, to give a finished appearance to the space left by the open polonaise, or it has two narrower ones above those, which go around the entire skirt. The polonaise is usually long enough to reach these flounces. Panier-drapery can be worn over the same style of skirt. Nothing can be easier and lighter to wear, or more becoming to any figure, than this style of dress. Elderly ladies wear jacket and pointed bodices, and also round-waisted full ones, according to their size and figures; but polonaises are more popular than bodices. Sateens, with a large pattern over them in black and gray for mourning, and all dark colors for ordinary wear, are much worn in the early daytime. The steel-colored satin merveilleux in several shades, the plum-colors, browns, olive-greens, vie with black in popularity for smarter wear; and silk or woolen grenadines, thin nun's-cloth, and barèges for the evening. These are mixed with Sicilienne and lace, and have generally square or V-shaped bodices, sleeves reaching below the elbow, with trimmings of gold, steel, or jet beads, and black or white lace, or white crêpe lisse. Many elderly ladies, of slight figures, wear black or cream-lace capes, either fastening them around the throat with a ruche, or turning the front back into the V-shaped bodice, and finishing off with a bow, composed of loops of ribbon. If the capes are of old real lace, all the better; if not, they are of soft delicate-looking lace, and are either plain or trimmed with a full edging, or with several rows of narrower lace. In black lace they are worn in the daytime. Many dressmakers make pretty capes, matching the costume, and send them home with the dress. These capes scarcely reach the elbow, and are trimmed with fringe or lace. They are removed when the mantle or shawl is put on. Skirts, as a rule, just touch the ground; but they are longer in the evenings, and shorter for the morning and walking. Some ladies wear plain full skirts, sewed on, in gathers around the bodice, in the old-fashioned way. Others have a deep jacket bodice, and skirt

with two deep gathered flounces; the jacket from the waist, and the flounces, being of the same depth. The stripes of alternate satin and moiré, and all watered silks, are in request now. For thin mantles or shoulder-coverings, black lace shawls and mantillas are arranged with satin ribbon. The shawls have one corner turned back and gathered up to form a hood, and the other caught up towards the waist with a wide bow, the rest is drawn over the arms, arranged in a few folds in front, and fastened with a narrower bow and loops. Soft silk shawls are arranged in much the same way, and silk shawls with colored flowers on them, are sometimes draped to form the back of a skirt, the front and the bodice being black satin and lace, with colored ribbon to match the shades of the flowers. The large black Chantilly and other lace veils are arranged as the front of a dress, or worn as aprons. Over mauve, gray, violet, or deep-red, they are effective. Steel and mauve are favorite colors this year for flowers, and feathers, and bonnet-strings. Black lace, and Leghorn straw, and beaded bonnets of all kinds are fashionable. Caps of black lace, with gold-headed or pearl pins, are popular in the evening for quiet wear; but for dressy occasions, cream, "ficelle," and white lace, with and without flowers, are most becoming. Some pretty new caps have the front arranged with a wide lace Alsatian bow, fastened back at the sides with pins. Tulle, dotted over with beads, and marabouts or two crossed ostrich feathers, forming the entire cap, are worn for full dress. The double pins, connected by a chain, are being used for caps, cravats, bonnet-strings, and even on parasols, when of lace. The parasol lace covers, now so little seen, have been brought forward this summer again, and are arranged over white, black, or color, supplemented by a lace edging all around, laid just underneath the edge, to make them the requisite size. Another old fashion is being slowly revived, in the full open-worked and lace sleeves, with the plain wristband, once so much in vogue.

PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.

Everything relating to this department should be addressed "Puzzle Editor," PETERSON'S MAGAZINE, Lock Box 437, Marblehead, Mass.

No. 183.—DOUBLE DECAPITATIONS.

1. Behead to silence, and leave a money-box in a shop; again, and leave sick.
2. Behead a lash, and leave the stomach of an ox prepared for food; again, and leave mature.
3. Behead to chide, and leave frigid; again, and leave aged.

Harlem, N. Y.

MINNIE S. YOST.

No. 184.—RHOMBOID.

Across.—1. A path. 2. A place of combat. 3. Gardens. 4. A devourer. 5. To hinder.

Down.—1. A consonant. 2. A prefix. 3. A verb. 4. To yield. 5. To mould. 6. Before. 7. To place. 8. A prefix. 9. A letter.

Worcester, Mass.

ALICE GREY.

Answers Next Month.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN THE DECEMBER NUMBER.

No. 179.

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