

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

HINTS ON HOW TO DRESS.—A famous London doctor said, in a recent lecture, that "dress should be to the body what language is to the mind." In other words, it should be, to a certain extent, the exponent of one's individuality. Slavishly to copy the fashions, we have always condemned. Our advice has been to learn, in the first place, what the prevailing fashions were, and then, in the second place, to adapt them to your person, style, complexion, etc.

To achieve this object, a lady must study two things, viz: form and color, at least as regards herself: form, in reference to her height and breadth, as compared with others; and color, in respect to complexion, hair, eyes, etc. In regard to form, there are certain rules which must never be neglected. Thus, a stout woman should avoid perpendicular stripes in dress, as, although they give height, they increase fullness; and horizontal stripes should be avoided by short or very stout people. Large patterns should be discarded by short people, and left to the tall ones, who can manage to carry them off gracefully. The former must also beware of wearing double skirts, or tunics short and bunched in shape, and also of lines made across the figure by flounces or trimmings, which cut it in the centre. The short and stout must also dress the hair high: at least, as much so as the fashion of the time will allow.

A dress cut high behind, or high on the shoulders, gives the benefit of the whole height of the figure, and a horizontal line of trimming across the neck, bust, or shoulders decreases the apparent height of the wearer. Full and puffed sleeves are an improvement to most figures, except very stout ones, to which the plain coat-sleeve, not cut too tight, is more suitable. Very light colors should be avoided by those who are stout, as their size is thereby much increased, whereas by wearing black materials it is diminished. Any attempt to increase the height by a very high or large head-dress should be avoided, as such an enlargement of the head dwarfs the figure. A lady with a prominent or large nose should beware of wearing a small bonnet, and no one over thirty years of age can afford to have a shadow thrown on her face from too large a hat or bonnet, as that increases the apparent age.

In making dresses for young girls, when they happen to be very thin, great attention should be paid to the fact, and every endeavor made to hide deficiencies by means of extra fullness of trimming in the bodice and skirt. They are often made fun of for this, as they are for a little extra stoutness, which is very cruel and foolish. One of their great troubles is usually very skeleton-like arms. This defect shows itself in a very painful manner, and both elbows and shoulder-bones are "quite too" visible, even in a thick dress. This was remedied by a wise mother of our acquaintance by placing a little layer of wadding between the lining and the material of the dress, which gave an extra thickness to the sleeve, and hid all deficiencies of contour. In the opposite case, that of over-stoutness, the young girls' dresses should all be made in the "Princess" style, as the long, straight, flowing lines downwards reduce the apparent breadth. The back-drapery should be full, but very narrow, and not too high up.

With these general rules borne in mind, any lady, who takes a good fashion magazine, can always dress well; for she must, of course, know first what the fashions are, before she can adapt them to herself.

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DECORATING SUPPER TABLES, ETC.—We are often asked, by subscribers living remote from the great cities, what is the latest style for decorating supper-tables, dinner-tables, etc. We answer that there are almost as many ways as persons, and that individual taste is often better than mere fashion. Nevertheless, we mention a few styles, which, at least, may serve as hints. For example: low baskets, with or without handles, may be placed down the centre of the table, filled with white flowers and maidenhair, each basket tied round with white ribbon. Between the flowers, high dishes with fruit and fancy cakes may break the line. Or a table may be arranged with maidenhair fern, laid flat on the table round the base of every dish, and various flowering plants standing in glass or china vases down the centre. Wreaths of roses of every color may encircle a plateau of looking-glass, on which baskets or vases are placed; and if the table is very large, baskets filled with flowers are certainly the prettiest decoration; but for effect the flowers should be of the same sort and color. A white table, with masses of yellow blossoms, alameda, chrysanthemums, or even daffodils or primroses, is most effective. Violets intermixed with the latter are admissible. White azaleas, or bright rose-colored rhododendrons, look well until the summer season provides the queen of flowers, when roses can be used *ad libitum*. A single flower, for the buttonhole, at each plate, is a pretty attention to the male guests. If flowers are scarce, the fine trails of the small ivy can be trellised all over the table with excellent effect; but to insure success in all table-decoration, there is no doubt that one color alone should be chosen and kept to. It is wonderful how prettily a table can be dressed with the blue and white china now so easily procured at small cost, provided good shapes are chosen and suitable flowers used. Bowls full of pink roses, common garden-flowers, or wild ones, are alike effective. Blue china goes well with wall-flowers or chrysanthemums. Laburnum blossom may be very well arranged as a fringe to baskets or bowls, and if white china be used, lilac blossoms look well, though its shade is not really bright or gay enough for a wedding breakfast. Wild-flowers, especially, are very pretty, and if gathered immediately before being used, will generally last through the entertainment. The great point in using these, as in everything else, is to be original and individual, provided always taste reigns paramount.

A PERMANENT PATTERN FOR A DRESS is what every lady should have. Every girl, especially, who makes her own dresses, should have one. Such girls, in some respects, are greatly to be envied. They almost invariably fit themselves well. We think all those, however, should have a "permanent pattern," and make all their own bodices at least. The skirts can be bought ready-made, or can be given to a dress-maker to make and trim. But what is a "permanent pattern?" you will ask. It is a bodice of thick linen, cut to one's exact measurement, and made to fit perfectly, and then all taken to pieces ready to serve as a pattern for all future dresses. Of course, a good dressmaker must make it first for you.

A NEW VOLUME of this magazine begins with the July number. To those, not wishing back numbers, now, therefore, is an excellent opportunity to subscribe. The copyright novellet, "A Romance of Fifth Avenue," will be begun in the July number.