

FASHIONS



Be Brave, Sweethearts.
The month of trials will soon be here. Hail, sweethearts! When every love can wed its dear, in Nature's faintest atmosphere. If lovers will but persevere in Cupid's arts.
The girls are waiting—oh, dear, yes!—in all their Springtime loveliness—“Who knows the answer may be ‘yes.’”
Be brave, sweethearts!
—Philadelphia Inquirer.

SMART TOGS FOR CYCLING

Round or Divided Skirts, Brilliant Shirt Waists, Light Hats and Easy Shoes the Capers.

NEW YORK, May 14.—Ask any good shop about bicycle fashions and you will probably get the nonchalant reply: “Oh, a short skirt and a shirt waist is all any woman needs awhel!”

And yet the problem of finding a proper and comfortable cycling costume and at the same time one good to look at is still costing both novice and expert no end of trouble.

No new patents are being taken out this Spring on “perfect cycling suits,” but still it would be unsafe to conclude from this that the ordinary circular skirt of the past few seasons is altogether satisfactory.

Indeed, now that the bicycle fever has subsided, and the sport from being a fad has settled down to a fixed position in athletics, the army of wheelwomen while far more decorously clad and more presentable than in the days when the market was flooded with freakish garments and the highways crowded with freakish-looking pedal-pushing rearers, there, perhaps at once better satisfied with themselves and low uncomfortable.

There was a reason for the late unpleasantness, as some have styled the eruption of bloomers. Women didn't plunge into them all at once. First they tried an almost endless succession of cycling skirts.

Some skirts were divided down the back only, some all the way through, and others had a network of harness underneath that would put the wires in a telephone exchange to shame. None was satisfactory.

Then and not until then did the bravest of the army of merry bikers try bloomers. These solved many problems, yet they had a short existence and one not without blame.

Couldn't Make 'Em.
At its close the wheelwomen patted themselves on the back and said it was their superior modesty and sense of propriety that nipped the death knell of the bloomer costume. As a matter of fact, the American dressmaker couldn't make bloomers that were fit to wear, and so the American woman had to stop trying to wear them.

The best of the French bloomers are far more seemly for the purpose for which they are intended than are skirts, but poor bloomers are an impossibility.

After the downfall of the bloomer, wheelwomen's costumes for a time went from bad to worse; then they began to grow more natty in appearance, until now they are trim and smart without being, at least for the most serious riders, altogether up to athletic requirements.

The plain, round skirt of last season, which is still in favor for the present summer, hinders free leg movement and tires the rider. It is necessarily made of heavy goods that will keep the set of the garment and resist the wind. To add to its weight and further impede its easy-going, it is finished with the material set on the outside and finished with rows upon rows of stitching, or else it follows the fashion of the walking skirt and is laced or has plaids all the way around, these folds being stitched nearly to the bottom.

From being made seven inches from the ground and then five inches, it has now but three or four inches of full length, and indeed may come quite to the ankles when fully up to the limit in point of style.

In favor of an inconvenient garment for wheeling there is but one thing to be said, which is that the average woman's rides are so short and taken at such a moderate pace that she can afford to sacrifice something for the sake of combining in one dress her rainy day suit, her golfing costume and her bicycle outfit.

Divided Skirts.
The wheelwoman par excellence still wears a divided skirt. She cannot afford to sacrifice serviceability to style. A bifurcated article recently ordered by Mrs. George Gould has a trim black skirt which is surmounted by a cloth jacket of a vivid scarlet, relieved by a touch of black in the braiding and the facing of revers. A small scarlet hat with curling black plumes completes an exceedingly picturesque and cheerful outfit, though one less suited, perhaps, to the exigencies of dusty roads than the ordinary somber grays and tans.

or a monkey wrench, according to the needs and tastes of the rider, but most outfits dispense with these conveniences and approximate pocketless walking attire as closely as possible.

At Reasonable Cost.
Some women are able to go to a first-class tailor and pay \$100 or more for a bicycle suit. The vast majority, however, are not, for the bicycle is the poor woman's steed, as well as the poor man's. It is lucky, therefore, that there is no necessity for going to a tailor to get a well-cut, well-made, well-fitting suit, for in the very best stores one can be had for any price from \$10 up to \$50. No matter how costly a suit is, it is bound to show in a comparatively short time the wear and tear of the road, and it is common sense, as well as economy, to pay little for a suit and get new ones as required.

A very pretty model that I have lately seen has a skirt in tan covert coating. This is laid all the way around in hollow plaids, stitched to the level of the knees. There is a short, round-banqueted coat, whose revers are faced with red and which opens over a white, plaited chemise, largely covered by a long red cravat of the regatta pattern. The sleeves are trimmed with a white, plaited lining.

A blue linen hat trimmed with a red band and with red, curling plumes is of tan color.

A second attractive costume is of tan cloth. It has a bell skirt forming two plaids, which are stitched on both sides of the apron and in the middle of the back. There is a light, attached bolero which fastens by two rows of large pearl buttons. The facings of the small revers are of purple taffeta. The sleeves are small and stitched. The hat is of khaki with a purple band.

Pretty fawn-colored skirts and skirts of hunter's green are seen, and later in the season the white skirts so popular last Summer will have another lining.

Dark Skirts and Bright Waists.
In general, the color scheme of the bicycle suit is different with women from that adopted by men, who wear dark coats and light breeches. Dark colors prevail in skirts, while brilliant-hued waists are to be worn with them.

Especially prepared for the use of the bicyclist are bloomers of endless variety. There are those of madras and pique and linen, and those more dainty of batiste and fine lawn.

One very pretty and serviceable is a blouse of white linen printed with blue flowers and laid in fine plaids, both as to bodice and sleeves. It has cuffs and a wide sailor collar with rounded ends, which are of white batiste embroidered in delicate colors. A black velvet belt and stock are to be worn.

A second pretty waist is of blue batiste embroidered in openwork patterns. Sleeves, fronts and collar are ornamented with white batiste scalloped and embroidered.

The comfort of riding depends largely on the adoption of suitable footwear. Women show in this matter a tendency to extremes of style which are equally undesirable. The folly of wearing patent leather or Louis Quinze shoes with brown paper soles is fairly obvious, but scarcely better are the heavy, clumsy shoes with half-inch-thick soles affected by many who pride themselves on putting utility before vanity.

Thus shod the feet lose all flexibility—an essential quality for good riding. No work of any consequence is done by the foot. It merely rests on the pedal, and the ankle does, or should do, the rest. A light shoe with moderate heel and sole of medium thickness is prescribed by every consideration of comfort and suitability.

And as to height. Fashionable boot-makers say that only two classes of riders are new-time self with brilliant adornments would hardly know its old-time self with plain ribbon band.

The Tam O'Shanter, the campaign hat and the masculine bicycle cap are the opposite of the demands of those who dress in taste.

On the whole, the bicycle fashions this year are prettier and more sensible than those of last season. There is more color being worn, but the overdoing of this feature is always self-destructive, and harmony in the end prevails over garishness.

BARBARIC ADORNMENT.
Metallic Jewelry of Every Sort to Be Worn.
Superlative is the only accurate description of the metallic jewelry season is bringing for women. It will be very hard for even the women of ordinarily most quiet tastes to refrain from displaying some of the new things. If the present craze for much jewelry doesn't represent the climax, then another season, says the New York Herald, jewelry will be truly barbaric. One general principle may be depended upon. Any piece of jewelry of foreign or antique make that can be attached anywhere to the gown or worn about the person is good form. The more nearly it approaches the unique and the more striking it is in size the happier its wearer should be.

But the girl who luxuriates in being “faddy” will have more scope for enjoyment. Her first duty will be to at once start a collection of silver animal charms and not rest until she resembles a peripatetic “Zoo.” The really new thing, only reaching retail counters during the last week, is the war bracelet. A twist of gold, or a plain silver ring is hung with either a three-inch lion or a bear. If your sympathies are all with England, the British lion will dangle at your wrist. Other war bracelets will be chosen. Smaller bears and lions come for watch or chateleine charms, for brooches or hat pins.

One is not expected to begin and end her jewelry menagerie with the bear or lion. Lucky pigs, turtles, French poodles, snakes and lizards are familiar subjects for the jeweler's art. Now it is the fad to acquire about every animal known, including lambs and full-grown sheep that look like tigers, owls, goats, a real one-horned rhinoceros, elephants, bears, dormice, bison and even donkeys. They are about an inch in length and made to hang from a bracelet, bangle fashion, or attached to a chain at intervals. The only two beasts of any prominence the jeweler has not fashioned in silver are orang outangs and giraffes. The animal habitus is to be quite the thing.

All in a Nutshell.
A quaint conceit, intended to be a close friend to its owner, is styled “All in a nutshell.” The shell, like a large English walnut, it is of gold or silver. When it opens in the center one-half the shell holds an inch-long smelling bottle surrounded by four pearl-embellished pins, for nose. The center partition of the shell is a tiny round looking glass, that lifts to reveal just a dot of a powder puff, the shell holding the needed powder.

For ties there is a large clasp, sometimes all of steel, cut in facets, or of gold decorated with cut steel. A coiled snake is another design. These form the fronts of a clasp, in which is laid the knot of the tie. They are very clever and have quite an uncommon appeal.

With this tie clasp may be bought a “La Florence” to match. La Florence is a flat ornament, either set with French pearls or brilliant, or simply wrought in steel, with a large pearl pendant from it. The Princess Cantacuzene had one as a gift from the Prince. Worn from a flat chain, it should hang just on the chest. A buckle sometimes goes in this set with the tie clasp and La Florence.

Another ornament on the order of La Florence is a thick silver chain hanging below the belt. Its ends finished with heavy metal tassels. The chain is held together across the chest by a large cabochon, surrounded with some metal design. The effect is quite Russian.

To make sure of a really good head of healthy, abundant hair the care of it should begin in childhood. If the hair is neglected early in life it is hard to coax it into a good condition later. However, patience and care will accomplish much even then.

The head should be washed always in rainwater. Where this is not obtainable add a little borax. Rinse thoroughly in clean water afterward. Ammonia makes the hair brittle, and is said to hasten the coming of gray hairs. Washing soda causes the hair to become streaked. Castile or tar soap is best, if one uses soap at all. If the hair is too oily soap may be used advantageously. If it is deficient, a little glycerine or vasoline is beneficial.

Yolk of an Egg.
Some persons use the beaten yolk of an egg with good results. It should be used with lukewarm water and rinsed off in clear, cold water. It is better to dry the hair with a towel than with a brush, and to lift the hair from time to time, than to fan it or to apply artificial heat, as is done frequently. When dry the hair should be brushed thoroughly, the more the better. Brushing the hair for ten minutes every night before retiring is an excellent means of preventing disease of the scalp and securing glossy hair.

Buy good brushes and combs; they are far cheaper in the end. A good plain brush will cost \$1 or \$1.50, and a celluloid or rubber comb about 50 cents. The brush should be cleaned frequently by dipping the bristles in hot water containing a little ammonia and rinsing in cold water with a little lemon juice. It should then be placed, bristles up, to dry. The comb may be cleaned by washing in tepid soapy water and rubbing dry with a soft cloth, then removing any particles that may remain between the teeth by passing

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WOMAN

Co-Education.
In former days, when many praise, when people wanted knowledge, the girls went west to boarding school. The boys went to colleges.

A frog in the marsh, tho' his voice was harsh, Took in the situation; “Co-ed, co-ed, co-ed,” he said, He meant co-education.

Hurrah for the frog That sat in the bog And croaked his great Nation A question was asked, In times now past, And gave us co-education.

—Songs of All the Colleges.

GRADINGHOUSE SERVANTS

Recent Suggestions of Woman's Club Arent Mistress and Maid Carefully Considered.

The idea of grading house servants in classes, according to their proficiency in their work, as recently suggested by the Woman's Club, of Portland, is an unique one to me, at least. I have been puzzling my brains—which, I fear, don't shine in a domestic line—as to how this is to be done. Are the girls to be stood up in a row and questioned, a due percentage being marked on answers? Or will they be required to hand in papers on culinary affairs, which will decide their status, and wages?

Or are the candidates for classification to demonstrate practically their ability or want of ability, to manage the kitchen and dining-room; to answer the bell, do the chamber work, the washing, ironing, scrubbing, with odd ends of baby-tending and yard-clearing, and many another duty pertaining to the lot of the maid-of-all-work? For the average Portland “girl” is just that.

In whatever way these ladies propose to grade servants, and I fear that they will meet with difficulties by the way, side as well as the end, it is a matter that must be reckoned with.

For instance, a girl may have a genius for cooking, and a talent for keeping the kitchen in a “mess” of disorder. She may be an expert at washing, and but an indifferent ironer, a splendid scrubber and a poor mopper. Her talents may begin, and end in immaculate cleanliness, which is next to godliness—good, in its way.

But, meantime, one can't dine on sparkling glassware, or polished stoves. The ironing man—and his man—requires palatable food, well served.

Momentous Problem.
But how to grade these unequally equipped servants? The good cook might be docked 10 per cent for slovenliness, and so on. “Thinking the tariff” would be a sinecure, in comparison.

The committee on grading might make a house-to-house visitation, getting information, at first-hand, from the employers. But, alas! no two women agree on these matters, which renders such data unreliable.

Mrs. Brown employs a girl highly recommended by Mrs. Jones, and finds her a good cook. Perhaps her specialties are French-fried potatoes, and popcorn pudding, dishes of which Mrs. Jones is notably fond.

And again, if Mrs. Smith has an all-around girl, at a reasonable wage, is it likely that she will praise her so highly that her wages must be raised? Oh, yes, Gretchen is a good servant, as servants go, but you know, messieurs committee, that none of them is perfect. And, really, speaking of first-class girls, Mrs. Robinson's new cook, Bridget, is much better than Gretchen—a jewel, in fact. I quote even Mrs. Robinson; she secures such excellent girls, at such a low wage,” etc.

Thus Mrs. S. protects her own interests and repays Mrs. R. for that most flagrant of neighborly offenses, the coaxing of a splendid cook from Mrs. Smith's very kitchen, by the simple expedient of offering it more a month for her services. These are the things that rattle in the tender breasts of women—until duty repel.

I fear that all the grading in the world will never settle this vexed servant problem, which, after all, is in a manner self-regulating. The unsatisfactory