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COURTS.

Circuit court convenes first Monday in November and third Monday in April.

Probate court in session first Monday in each month.

Commissioners court meets first Wednesday after first Monday of each month.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

A BOSTON WOMAN WHO HAS SUCCEEDED AS A CONTRACTOR.

Some Alluring Deceptions—Women as Pharmacists—Chains and Beads Fashionable—Parliament's Typewriters—Seasonable Home and Dress Hints.

Conservative Boston has become a veritable hotbed for the advancement of women in business enterprises. There are progressive Boston women who can conduct almost any desired line of business, design an artistic dwelling or municipal building, take an excellent photograph, print a novel in the latest style, and, if the novel is not a success, arrange for the author's funeral in a fashion only possible to a tender hearted feminine undertaker familiar with business reverses in the Hub.

Mrs. Alice E. Cram, who has made such an enviable reputation for herself as a contractor, is also a Boston woman. Mrs. Cram says that she had no special business training beyond a good public school education and the fact that she was the sister of six brothers.

She started in business as a contractor with her husband nine years ago. Her business ability was manifest from the start. Together Mr. and Mrs. Cram contracted for the foundation work of some large recent public buildings, among others the new public library, the courthouse, the boulevard bridge and the Albany railroad, which is said to be one of the finest pieces of masonry in the country.

The entire work on these contracts was superintended by Mrs. Cram, whose judgment in such matters is considered something unique.

About a year and a half ago Mrs. Cram decided to paddle her own business canoe. She now has her own offices, manages all her business dealings and is proving the wisdom of her choice in her remarkable success as a contractor.

MRS. ALICE E. CRAM.

In addition to her regular work Mrs. Cram conducts a commission business, selling machinery and materials used in excavating and in general masonry work.

She superintends all her own work, and to this fact she attributes the satisfactory results obtained. When she has a large contract on hand, she drives to and from the scene of action several times a day in a jaunty cart that is managed with the skill of an expert whip.

To Mrs. Cram was confided the entire management of the construction of the foundation for the Edison Electric company building of Boston. Her most recent achievement was securing the contract from the Chase Granite company of New York to team 40,000 tons of stone to be used in elevating the tracks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. For this contract she competed with contractors all over the country.

Mrs. Cram is of the "newest woman" type. She is a pretty, well dressed, home loving woman on one hand, and on the other thoroughly businesslike, energetic, just to a degree, farsighted and generous without being sentimental. She employs women entirely for her office work. "I find that they can always be relied upon," she said recently. Mrs. Cram is a member of the Professional Woman's league of New York, an executive officer of the Boston Business league and treasurer of the Boston Playgoers' club.—New York Journal.

Some Alluring Deceptions.

In one of Marlitt's German romances there is a clever young widow who fools her men admirers in the matter of her "simple dressing." She wears white muslin gowns that are vastly becoming and seem alluringly modest and inexpensive. Only her seamstress, who hems the yards and yards of tiny lace trimmed ruffles, and her tire woman, who spends hours at the ironing table "doing up" the billows of flimsy fabric, that must be fresh and unrumpled twice a day, only these—and other women—know no wardrobe could be devised more expensive and more difficult to keep in order than one which demands perennial, presentable and dainty muslin gowns.

In the same list of alluring deceptions must be classed the present "plain skirt" ordered by fashion. It is plain in one sense alone—that of having no trimming. In all others its elaboration is maddening. To cut, line and hang one of these ripple skirts requires great skill. The first requirements are a pattern perfectly cut, a lining as exactly basted as the outside, the two laid together seam to seam and held without an iota of "draw" or "pucker," the whole then hung from the hips with perfect smoothness.

When all this is done, however, the worst remains—the slope on the lower edge. Look at the majority of skirts at this crucial part, and it will be seen how few achieve success. It is a "dip" here and a "hitch" there on nearly all, with waves and billows pursuing their chaotic way between. The front breadth has an inelegant tendency to poke out directly in the center, an evil which the amateur dressmaker accepts and the tailor attempts to lessen by putting two or three featherbone reeds from seam to seam at the foot and about six inches apart. Nothing short of the most expert make prevents this skirt from swinging about the ankles in a very ungraceful way.

The fashion is an abomination, the greater because it poses as simple and desirable. Its cost, too, and comfort are as delusive as its design. The perfectly fashionable skirt is supposed to take a dozen yards of silk width material and a corresponding amount of lining and haircloth stiffening, and it weighs from three to six pounds, according to the heaviness of goods. This weight is intolerable to many women who insist on wearing it because it is the fashion. Are we ever to be "advanced" enough to be superior to the dictates of fashion when her commands necessitate such exaggerated and comfortless garments?—New York Times.

Chains and Beads Fashionable.

Chains are extremely fashionable this year, and the jewelers in Paris are showing them in great variety, but the fine gold chain, with a single pearl every four or five inches, has the preference. A pretty chain of a fanciful description is composed of pearls set alternately with olive shaped beads of dull chased gold. Some chains are made of small black agate beads, also separated at intervals by single pearls. There is a decided fancy for these black agate beads, which are deemed—not without reason—extremely becoming to the complexion. Necklaces are made of them, their simplicity relieved by the addition of a diamond clasp. A row of black beads, divided on either side by a long S in diamonds, makes a beautiful ornament for the throat.

In the gold chains pink coral beads are sometimes substituted for pearls. Chains are also made of black or blue steel—a metal in as high favor as ever—the pearls introduced as in those of the more precious metal. They are not only used for watches and eyeglasses, but chain purses and other knickknacks, such as pencil cases, tiny powder boxes, mirrors and charms, are suspended from them. These, however, must not be worn openly. It is considered a breach of good breeding to have a bunch of valuable trinkets dangling about the person—to say nothing of the danger of such a proceeding—and it must be hidden either in the breast pocket of the coat or beneath the folds of the dress.—Manufacturing Jeweler.

Parliament's Typewriters.

Miss May H. Ashworth is at the head of a typewriting department introduced in May, 1895, for the benefit of the members of the English house of commons. She has a staff of five young women, who are proficient typewriters and stenographers. Some of them are also expert linguists. The nature of the work required is thus described by Miss Ashworth: "There are many occasions when a member of parliament wants some letters, or a speech, or a note to his constituents typewritten, and when he does we are at his service. He may also have a foreign letter, written in a language with which he is not conversant. Again we are at his service. Or he may be in a great hurry and have several letters to write. So he sends for one of my staff, dictates them to her, and they are written down as quickly as he speaks."

Women as Pharmacists.

Today the pharmacist is a trained scientist, and pharmacy has been elevated to a profession. In its present form it has no unclean and unpleasant features and is therefore liked by women. Nevertheless it is only of late years that they have overcome the former prejudices and crossed the threshold of the calling.

They have a natural aptitude for the trade on account of their constitutional caution, deftness and delicacy of touch. The first woman to enter the profession in our country was Mrs. Jane Loring of Boston, in 1800. She was a grandaunt of Congressman Loring. Under the old system there was no state supervision of the profession, and any one could take it up who desired without any legal impediments. Under this system over 1,200 women became pharmacists. Of late years, however, there has been a profound change in the industry. Partly to prevent competition, or rather to restrict it, partly to raise the professional standard, and partly to protect the public, colleges of pharmacy have been started in various places in the country and laws passed requiring all candidates for the profession to pass examinations almost as strict and difficult as those laid down for physicians and lawyers. The new system has cut down the number of candidates, both male and female. In Massachusetts not more than a score of women have passed the examinations in the past 15 years. In New York the number is said to be nearly 50, and in the various states of the Union the entire total is below 500.

Many marry and leave the calling, a few have retired, and a few have continued their studies and have become physicians or chemists. At the present time the total number of women who practice pharmacy either as proprietors, clerks or apprentices is estimated at about 1,500.—New York Mail and Ex-

This employment of women in the British house of commons is an innovation that attracts most attention. One day after the head clerk had written dictated letters for an old member he rushed out of the room, seized the arm of a friend, and dragging him in cried excitedly: "Just think of it! This young lady has written ten letters for me in five minutes. It's marvelous! Simply marvelous!"

A Literary Critic on Sleeves.

As to sleeves, the fashions come slowly up this way, and do not seem to be settled by universal woman's suffrage. For the majority of women are not tall and shapely, and only the shapely and the tall can wear with decorum sleeves which make every woman under 5 feet 8 look at least as broad as she is long. On bicycles short ladies so clad are indeed unlovely objects, not to mention the resistance which such sleeves oppose to the wind. Why women to whom they are grossly unbecoming—the vast majority—submit to the tyranny of these sleeves, I know not. Who would be free themselves must use the scissors if dressmakers won't. Friends of the enfranchisement of women should reflect on this topic, which offers arguments to the adversary.—Andrew Lang in Longman's Magazine.

Mrs. Livermore.

A reception was given to Mrs. Mary A. Livermore by the Massachusetts army nurses on March 18 at the headquarters of the Woman's Relief corps in Boston. Distinguished guests were present. The Massachusetts Army Nurses' association, auxiliary to the national association, was formed, with Mrs. Fannie T. Hazen of Cambridge as president; Mrs. Jane M. Worrall of Boston and Mrs. Ellen W. Dowling of Melrose, vice presidents; Mrs. Marguerite Hamilton of Wakefield, secretary; Miss Mary J. Putnam, treasurer. Mrs. Livermore was elected an honorary member, with the privilege of voting on all questions. It was decided to send greetings to Miss Clara Barton, with an invitation to her to become an honorary member.—Boston Woman's Journal.

Won Her Degree.

Miss Ida H. Hyde of Chicago, formerly fellow in biology at Bryn Mawr, has just taken the degree of doctor of philosophy magna cum laude at the University of Heidelberg. Miss Hyde was admitted to the lectures at Heidelberg upon the presentation of her thesis—the preparation of which was begun under Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan, professor of biology at Bryn Mawr—and has studied there for two years, holding the Phœbe Hunt fellowship of the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ for part of this time. She also held the European fellowship of the association for 1893-4, during which she studied at the University of Strasburg.

Dinner Flowers.

The fashion which prevailed some time ago of presenting expensive bouquets to one's lady guests at a dinner has entirely gone out. Now a few flowers arranged in a loose bunch are sometimes given, but anything more is considered in bad taste. At a recent dinner given by a prominent society woman vases filled with pink roses were placed here and there around the tall candelabra, which occupied the center of the round table, and two loose, long stemmed roses, laid carelessly over one another, were at each lady's place.

She Is a Candidate.

Mrs. Margaret L. Watson, secretary of the Texas Equal Rights association, is a candidate for city secretary of Beaumont, Tex. Mrs. Mariana T. Folsom writes from Edna, Tex.: "The lawyers have decided that there is no law against a woman's holding the office. Influential men, both white and colored, are working for her election. Her character and popularity are such as to make the canvass very interesting for her opponents. The impetus given to the discussion of the woman question in Texas is marvelous."

Mrs. Lease's Plans.

Mrs. Mary E. Lease has declined a call to the pastorate of the Central Christian church of Wichita, Kan. "It will take me a year," she said the other day, "to fill my engagements in the American lecture field, and then I expect to take a trip around the world. Keir Hardie, the well known Scottish Socialist, has invited me to Glasgow. I have accepted and likely will make the first speech of my foreign tour in that city. I hope to remain abroad two years. Then I may settle down to preaching."

Massillon Women.

At the Republican primary election last month in Massillon, O., 200 women voted. Their efforts were rewarded by the election of Mrs. Ella O. Shoemaker on the school board by a majority of 38. This is the largest vote ever polled by women in Massillon. Mrs. Shoemaker is vice president of the Equal Rights association. Mrs. K. B. Foke is president of the association and Miss E. L. Folger recording secretary.

The Women Voted.

At an election held in Ames, Ia., March 2, the women of the city polled a heavy vote. In the second ward alone they cast over 60 votes. The vote was on the proposition to bond the city for 5 per cent of its valuation to extend the waterworks system and install an electric light plant. The decision to have public improvements is generally satisfactory.