

THIS YEAR'S GRADUATING GOWNS

ARE MORE PICTURESQUE AND ENCHANTING THAN EVER BEFORE.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Whatever may be the shortcomings of the story of the sweet girl graduate, her gown is invariably sure to prove a thing of beauty and her general appearance a joy forever. Every year she grows a trifle more picturesque and expansive in her ideas of what the gown for this great occasion should be, and a few dress-makers, who are empowered to reveal some of the secrets of their workrooms, have confessed that the tendency among the graduating classes this Spring is to get together and dress alike. This idea has been borrowed from the well-known principle that obtains at weddings, and according to which the best effects are secured by gowning all the bridesmaids with uniformity of cut and material.

If there is a very big class, of 20 or more, the girls break it up, for sartorial reasons, into groups of six, and a committee of four in each set of six is formed to sit in solemn council over samples and fashion books until a harmonious and generally becoming costume is selected. The contract for the six sweet frocks is then confided to one dressmaker, and the result, so the girls say, is bound to prove more pleasing and economical than when each graduate goes it alone on her gown and strives in secret to outdress her associates.

Model Frocks for the Platform.

Some of these dress clubs, for so these groups are called, have voted hats off; some regard hats as the very crowning triumph of their model frock; some are going in for stately trains and gorgeous parasols, and some are going to reflect the fashions of the Empire, or 1840, or Louis Quinze, or Marie Antoinette in their frocks and trills. The majority have pronounced in favor of white, and some captivating suits are being made of old ivory white nun's veiling, trimmed with attached straps of white peau de cygne. These veiling gowns do not, however, preponderate. The graduates would be less than feminine if they did not lean toward and yearn after the nets, and epirls, the pure white batistes, silk muslin, Irish handkerchief lawn, mercerized muslins and white Swiss muslins.

With these transparent fabrics lace prevails for decorative purposes, though some of the most charming models seen so far have been treated with entreeux and flounce edging of esprit footing or plain footing. Again, a most novel and happy idea has been materialized in hanging deep silk muslin flounces on a skirt of white Chinese or Louisiana silk. This design is agreeably illustrated by a view of a little gown, the body of which is made of creamy Louisiana decorated with dotted white satin lines. Below the close-fitting skirt top drop two deep flounces of cream silk mulled with Valenciennes rosette lace. Silk mulled and lace form the front, collar and sleeve puffs of the waist, while the remainder is wrought of materials to match the skirt. About the waist

goes a narrow strap of the richest pink Louisiana ribbon and at the rear fall looped sash ends of the same. A pink chiffon hat with an array of white chiffon roses above and below the brim is the final touch to this model gown for a group of six.

Graduating Hats.

All the graduating hats, when they are part of the class costume, are made either of cream white hair cloth, or of white Maline net, or chiffon. Roses, lilies of the valley, sprays of dogwood blossom and clusters of white waterlilies are the chosen flowers, and at the rear of every chapeau falls a looped scarf of lace, or chiffon, or Liberty silk.

While the hat is only occasionally the associate of the committee-chosen graduating gown, the parasol and the sashes are as important and universal adjuncts as the undershoe or the full blouse. A rightly constituted maiden could go more graduate without her sashes than a bride could go to the altar without her wax orange blossoms. If the class gown is drawn out on distinctly simple and economical lines, the glory and expansive fullness of its sash is not pinched for an inch. Some of the most adorable sashes are made of crepe de chine gauze, exquisitely embroidered and carrying a fringe of inches deep. Other sashes are made of net and hung with chiffon flowers; the majority, however, are of wide glittering satin taffeta ribbon drawn in a roll about the waist and falling in long loops and deeply fringed ends in the rear.

Sashes and Parasols.

It is a whim at once pretty and popular to match the sashes and parasols. Both are all white, or white with lace and colored flowers and ribbons, or with a satin taffeta sash, a satin taffeta parasol of exactly the same color is carried. The gown, however, with which the decorated sunshade seems to enjoy the closest sisterhood is one cut quite flat or in a pointed opening at the neck. The girl graduate is sure to possess a throat well worth showing, and when a wide collar all of lace or of lace and muslin is folded back from her round white neck her otherwise simple lawn gown develops at once into a toilet of charm and moment. No less pretentious or more successful impression of this could be offered than in the white class gown made for a group of graduates whose brains outweigh their pockets. The material is nothing more expensive than white mercerized muslin. The skirt and waist are perpendicularly tucked in clusters, and the borders are carried out in a deep cream imitation Valenciennes of small expense. The wide open collar is finished by a scarf of blue chiffon and two long sash ends of blue chiffon, elaborated with many bouillonnes of the same, that fall in the rear. A white Louisiana parasol striped in blue, with a blue enamelled handle, is the final touch of sweet and simple elegance that should become any girl under the sun.

Fans and bouquets are the final matters of moment to the girl who is considering her graduation toilet. All of

the valdettorians and salutarisians and winners of honors will carry floral trophies in their white-gloved or white silk mitten-covered hands. Big, showery bouquets are the dominant ideas this Spring, and while splendid white roses, loosely grouped with all their foliage and tied with broad white ribbon, are the acme of conventional perfection, the girls of each class have signified their intention to adopt a flower and carry their bouquets accordingly. It is the thing this year for classmates to give their particular chime bouquets, and as the compliment and gift is always reciprocated, the bouquets are provided by the class and harmonious. A half dozen sprays of white spirea is one of the popular ideas for bouquets under discussion, as also are loops and garlands of the Bankia rose and loose masses of the white rambler rose. Stiff, hard bouquets, such as are made up in fillets-of-the-valley, etc., are rather frowned upon. The big bouquets are tied with flowing masses of transparent grenadine ribbon or the very thinnest Liberty ribbon.

Flower Fans.

Gauze fans with flower tops seem the natural associates of the big bouquets, and they are one of the highly to be commended trifles that have made their initial appearance this Spring, and add an infinite coquettish charm to any afternoon or evening toilet. The prettiest and most expensive of their type are of thin silk, mounted on wooden sticks that have been delicately and appropriately treated with the pyrographic needle and then with a discriminating paint brush. The silk is painted most artistically with figures, the faces of which are made of tiny disks of painted ivory stuck upon the shining silken surface. Across the top of the fan a full wreath of silken hyacinth bells, violets, forget-me-nots or any small blossom, is fastened, to form a bouquet when the fan is closed and to spread into one-half the circle of a wreath when it is open. Less expensive examples are made of highly glazed paper painted with bouquets of flowers, and the garniture at the top is done with muslin posies or with little chiffon flowers.

The broad buckled, high flapped, narrow-heeled colonial slipper in white suede, white patent leather, black satin and black kid has no rival in the affections of the graduate, and with her artistic shoes she wears a right gaily clocked stocking. Sometimes her clocks are of silk embroidered in the conventional way, and sometimes it is a special novelty applied in velvet ribbon to both sides of her slim ankle. These velvet-clocked hose are the smartest among the novelties in footgear, but they won't wash, and a cleaner puts them in order after they have been worn a few times. More practical and quite as pretty is the hose of fine lisle with fancy, open-worked clocks. On some hose, that are sure to make a strong appeal to youthful fancy, there runs a line of open-worked beading up the outside of each ankle and through the beading a colored baby ribbon is run, to tie in a rosette knot half way up the leg. The ribbons are, of

"Mrs. Pinkham Saved me from an Operation."



Operations Avoided.

When a physician tells a woman suffering with ovarian or womb trouble that an operation is necessary, it of course frightens her.

The very thought of the operating table and the knife strikes terror to her heart.

And our hospitals are full of women who are there for ovarian and womb operations!

It is quite true that these troubles may reach a stage where an operation is the only resource, but such cases are much rarer than is generally supposed, because a great many women have been cured by Mrs. Pinkham's medicine after the doctors had said the operation must be performed.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been very successful in curing ovarian troubles. In fact, up to the point where the knife must be used to secure instant relief, this medicine is certain to help.

Ovarian troubles are easily developed from womb troubles, and womb troubles are so very common that ovaritis is steadily on the increase among women. It is, nevertheless, a most serious trouble, and to recommend wrong treatment for it is a crime for which there cannot be too deep a penalty.

It is, therefore, with full consciousness of the seriousness of the disease and the steady failure of other medicine to cure it, that we present for ovarian and womb trouble Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound as the most certain to help of any medicine in the world to-day. Any person who could read the letters in Mrs. Pinkham's files at her office in Lynn, Mass., would be convinced of the efficiency of Mrs. Pinkham's Compound.

The strongest and most grateful statements possible to make come from women who have escaped the operating table by the use of this medicine. Let any woman suffering from these troubles, or anything which may develop into them, write and get Mrs. Pinkham's advice. If you are beyond the reach of the medicine, you will be frankly told so, but, if not, you will be fully and carefully and kindly advised.

The most serious of all the diseases of women, as well as the minor ills, are promptly overcome by

**Lydia E. Pinkham's
Vegetable Compound.**

\$5000 REWARD

Owing to the fact that some skeptical people have from time to time questioned the genuineness of the testimonial letters we are constantly publishing, we have deposited with the National City Bank, of Lynn, Mass., \$5,000, which will be paid to any person who can show that the above testimonials are not genuine, or were published before obtaining the written special permission.—LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO., LYNN, MASS.

Earnest Words of Gratitude.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Your Vegetable Compound has completely cured me of the worst form of womb trouble, and made me a strong, healthy, robust woman. Before using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I suffered with severe pains in back and side, headache and nervousness. Menstruation would sometimes occur every two weeks, and once I had a severe hemorrhage which lasted a month. I was confined to my bed and the attending physicians told me I would have to undergo an operation as soon as I was strong enough. I read in one of your little books several testimonials from ladies who were cured by your Compound after having been told by their doctors that an operation was necessary, and I made up my mind then and there to commence taking your Compound. I did so and it has completely restored me to good health. I have gained twenty-two pounds since taking it and my flesh is as solid as a rock. My friends remark about the change in me. I am a living advertisement of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and have induced many of my friends to try it, which has proved very gratifying in its results. I thank you for restoring me to health."—ANNIE HARTLEY, 209 S. Sangamon St., Chicago, Ill.



ANOTHER OPERATION AVOIDED.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I feel very grateful to you for the benefit I derived from your kind advice and remedies. I was troubled with a complication of female troubles, had ovaritis, painful and irregular menstruation, leucorrhoea, nervousness, and weakness. I had no appetite and could not sleep nights. The least exertion would cause shortness of breath and dull pains in my hips and side. The doctors all advised me to have an operation and have one of my ovaries removed, but this I could not bear to think of. I was induced to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and after taking the first bottle I was much improved. It renewed my appetite, health, and strength. I continued taking it also your Blood Purifier and Sanative Wash, until entirely cured of all my troubles. The pains have never returned, and my health is splendid.

"Your remedies have been a boon to me, and I am sure many a woman owes her life to them."—MARIE WEBB, 356 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I feel it my duty to publish the wonderful help Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been to me. I was like a crazy person—could not eat or sleep; there was no rest for me day or night. Physicians examined me and said an operation was necessary. Before undergoing it, however, I determined to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound. I am so glad I did, for it cured me. I am a well woman now and can do any kind of work. I want this published throughout the land, so that all my suffering sisters may read, and if in any way afflicted with female troubles, they may be induced by my sincere statement to try this wonderful Vegetable Compound and be cured."—MRS. MARGARET BARNFORD, Centennial Ave., Crescent Beach, Beverly, Mass.



"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I wish to send you my testimonial stating the grand effect Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has had on my health. I was suffering to such an extent from ovarian trouble that my physician thought an operation would be necessary. Your medicine having been recommended to me, I decided to try it. After using several bottles I found that I was cured. My system was toned up and I suffered no more with my ovaries. Your medicine is the greatest boon on earth to suffering women."—MRS. ANNIE ASTON, Box 187, Troy, Mo.

course, taken out when the stocking goes into the laundry.

Mitten-Covered Hands.

Silk mittens, lace mittens and suede gloves are struggling for popular supremacy. There are no aspersions to be cast on the mitten, save that it does not become some hands; but it is cool, it is enormously becoming to most hands, and it is warmly admired and advocated

fashion in never mistaken Paris. Many women there are having their muslin afternoon gowns finished with a mere puff or frill falling a few inches below the armhole of the body, in order that over the bare arms a pair of beautiful black be drawn smoothly up to meet the puff. A fine white elastic in the top of the mitten holds it firm at the top of the

arm, and then the fingers on both hands are loaded with rings. Some of the newest white mittens, made of silk net, or woven glove silk, fit the hand and wrist snugly and then their length widens into a delicate open-worked, bag-like sleeve that fastens on the shoulder. No one has yet been found brave enough to deny that these substitutes for gloves are cool and eminently deco-

orative, but the mitten, except by the girl graduates and the drowsy debutantes, has not yet received the recognition on this side that it deserves. Older women cling to the very light weight suede, and yet with a fluffy parasol, a colonial shoe and a big net box the mittens seem the only hand coverings in keeping with weather and popular modes of fashionable dress.

MARY DEAN.



FIVE CHARMING GRADUATING GOWNS.