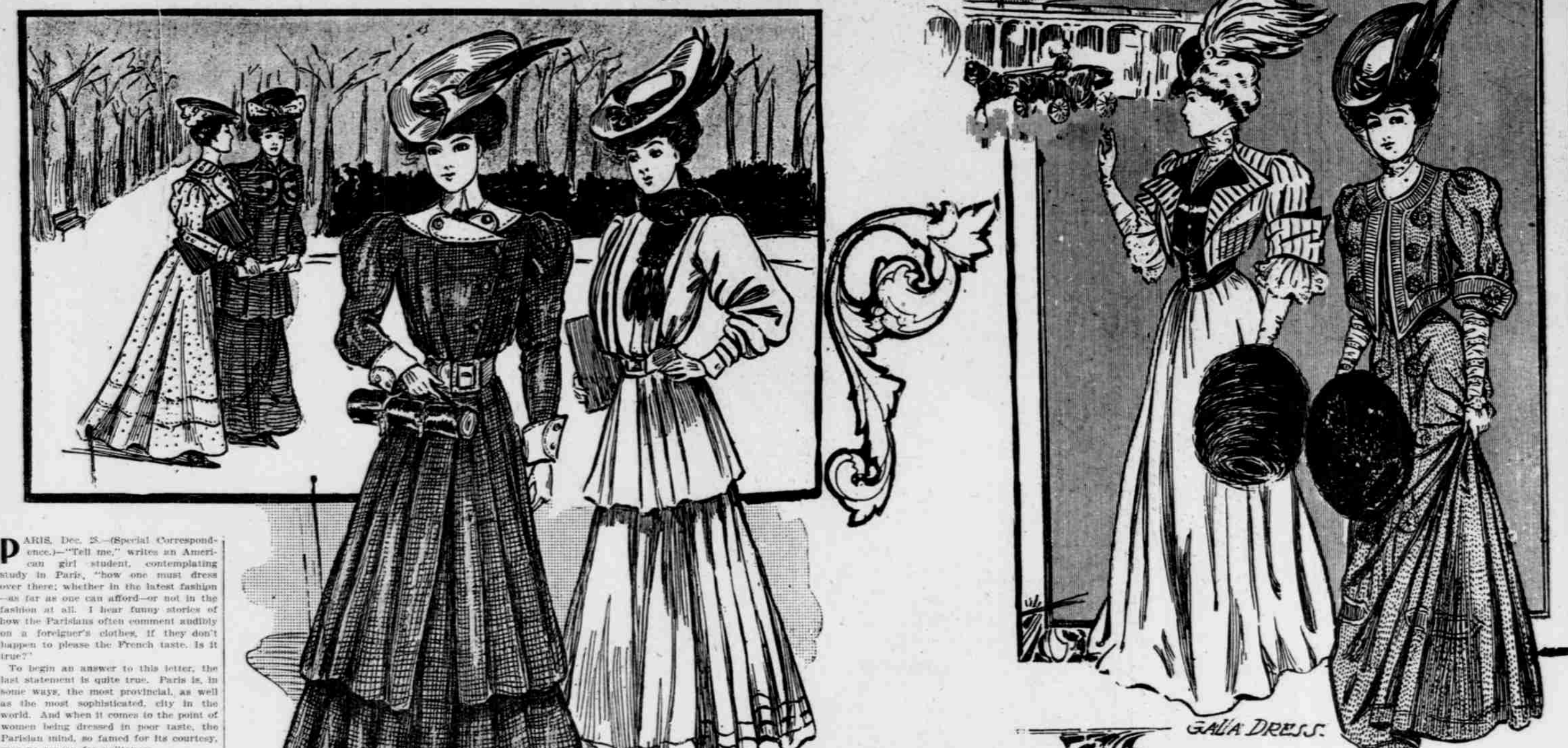


FASHIONS DIRECT FROM PARIS



PARIS, Dec. 25.—(Special Correspondence.)—"Tell me," writes an American girl student, contemplating study in Paris, "how one must dress over there; whether in the latest fashion—as far as one can afford—or not in the fashion at all. I hear funny stories of how the Parisians often comment audibly on a foreigner's clothes. If they don't happen to please the French taste, is it true?"

To begin an answer to this letter, the last statement is quite true. Paris is, in some ways, the most provincial, as well as the most sophisticated, city in the world. And when it comes to the point of women being dressed in poor taste, the Parisian mind, so famed for its courtesy, sees no reason for politeness.

However, this does not refer to women who are simply or poorly dressed. It applies to the flaunting of grotesque and foreign oddities Paris is not used to, or the wearing of futilities at the wrong time and in the wrong way.

For this reason, all things considered, it is best for the American student to buy most of her wardrobe after she reaches here. The Parisian toilet has a cachet all its own and it is a great safeguard in a strange city to look like the rest of the people one meets. Of especial importance is this to the girl of small means who is looking forward to a season of serious work, for the fitness of a student's clothes depends largely upon the life she is to lead here.

The taxation on her pocketbook also will be determined by the clothes she wears and the money she spends for living expenses, dressmakers, milliners, shoemakers, all charging according to the outward sign the customer gives of prosperity. Lastly, the French etiquette, according to French etiquette, requires a carriage, and one may not risk any extended journey afoot unless prepared for disagreeable adventures.

Styles are never very alert for the studying and working classes in Paris and in the Latin Quarter, where so large a proportion of the American girls are compelled to live from motives of economy, fashions may be said to sleep. Some of the Frenchmen, indeed, still dress as in the days when Paul de Kock romances were the fashion, while the foreign girl who lives and studies in the Quarter generally wears her oldest gown and cultivates the look of a student. But girls who only live in the Quarter and go to schools at the other side of Paris make always a strong effort to achieve a good and properly Parisian appearance, for the moment the Seine is crossed styles smarten prodigiously.

WORK DAY CLOTHES

Paris. Ways and means of acquiring a good coat and a sensible gown of right appearance, are excellent things for the student to know before arriving.

The fustier frocks, which are needed for social gathering, are generally made of blue or black, and their prices range from \$3 up. But these brilliant and pitilessly inexpensive sewers are quite at sea with the tailored things so a number of girls who need to make one frock or coat suit many occasions go to an English shop, where gowns and coats are made to order out of English and Scotch materials.

Two of these frocks are demonstrated on the foreground figures of the larger drawing. The checked dress is of taupe and black wool with plain taupe cloth for trimming. Scotch flannel in deep blue shades the other dress, and both show the belted tail coats, which are still exploited for slim wearers here, and which, properly interlined, require no additional wrap.

For dressier wear many frocks are made up entirely of their own materials, except maybe for a charming white

gump and undersleeves. Cashmeres in most beautiful shades are chosen for many of these, in wonderful dim tints of red, blue and ecru, and shades of brown; for the girl who studies in Paris, whatever the profession, is largely prone to do the artistic thing. Such gowns as these and others made of some artistically tinted silk and topped by delightful hats, which private milliners who live simply, turn out for a song, are now being made for girls who attend the classical matinees at the Francais. These occur generally during Lent, and aside from the charm of the rare and delightful comedies, they furnish the student a means of acquiring good French.

When dressed in her going-out fineries, the girl student needs as well as a carriage, a long coat in some neutral shade or in black. The coat of the carriage is trifling—30 cents the trip—and if three or four girls take it together, as is often done, the expense is scarcely more than carfare. As for the coat, if one made to order cannot be afforded, very excellent models can be found in the big department stores at incredibly low prices.

The small shopkeeper and the intelligent feature of Paris life, is fast disappearing. However, those who manage to keep their footing confine themselves in the old conservative way to one thing—corsets, gloves or cosmetics. All of which comparative trifles, as well as others too numerous to mention, Paris turns out more perfectly than any other city, far behind as she may be in offering the more solid comforts. Therefore, for the article which is essentially Parisian, the small shop is the place to go.

A very popular distraction for girls who live at the other side of the Seine—the side where prices for everything mount enormously, and English is virtually more often heard than French—is to spend an hour of the afternoon at some tea room. At these places, where it has come to be the thing to meet friends and read the home news, the dressing is sometimes very smart. Everybody who attempts to dress at all in Paris makes a special toilet for the afternoon, so the gowns shown at this time are usually the best in the student girl's day wardrobe.

At one place, which has a tremendous clientele of Americans, empire and directoire effects have lately outrun all others, and in many cases, the smart little directoire coat of blue and

white cloth, with a vest, cuffs and belt of black satin, seemed the pinnacle of girlish daring, especially as it was topped by a most audacious hat. This was a derby shape in black silk beaver, with a huge fancy white feather fixed on, with an India brooch at the side. The girl's skirt was a plain full model of blue cloth, and she carried a huge black lynx muff and wore a blouse of soft white silk, the embroidered finesses of whose sleeves fell below the elbow sleeves of the coat. With this American girl was a maiden equally smart in an Etou dress of short brown collette, with plaited bands and a charming rascie trimming of plain brown taffetas. The headpiece for this frock was a white felt shape, with brown velvet and wings, and the muff was brown astrakhan.

Just 20 cents exactly their little spree was costing them—75 centimes for tea and bread and butter, and 25 for the pour-boire to the waitress. Yet when they stood upon the sidewalk a moment later, daintily beckoning to a cab, they looked as if they had gone to a banquet. So remember the tea rooms when you come to Paris, for any innocents and inexperienced girls who are to be seen in the city, distraction which keeps away the awful

homesickness is, most valuable. For homesickness is like the quails of the sea trip—it is bound to come.

And now, word as to girls that are lucky enough to be placed while here in good French families, who sometimes open their doors to the foreigner who can pay well. When so established the student wardrobe needs to be very carefully considered. French ladies have no patience with the vagaries of the unsophisticated student. It is noticed that boarders in French families, while dressing plainly, yet pay attention to all the foibles of the house. The New Year home dinner is the most important of all of these, for while other nations celebrate Christmas in Paris New Year is the great feat.

Some delightful little frocks, designed for one of these French home dinners, which is to be followed by a young couple's dance, were of pale chiffon taffetas, deliciously trimmed with some simple lace or other. Valenciennes and narrow black velvet appeared upon the bodice of one dress, whose full skirt was in deep tucks at the bottom.

Simple silks are much used for young girls' evening frocks over here, and, strange to say, the suspender model, de-

thrown in America, is all-prevailing. But the French suspender gown is a thing of immense dressiness. The suspender part is often quite a bodice in effect.

Those designed for any festive evening use have the neck of the lace or muslin under-bodice, but not slightly, and the sleeves short. Sometimes a princess skirt has a suspender upper portion, which makes a very striking style when well turned out.

To return, however, to the dinner itself. To be admitted to a genuine French family circle is a treat never to be forgotten. One feels forever afterward as if they have lived in a page of Balzac, for not only are all the poor relations invited, but very often among them one meets splendid titles, and shabby, grandly courteous old gentlemen literally covered with decorations.

New Year's morning, when presents are received, a visit is generally made to the Grand Boulevard, where there are charming booths, as at some great fair, and foolish folk go by grotesquely costumed. But before this is the church service, so the same quiet toilets are worn for the boulevard promenade as well.

NINA FITCH.

host or hostess within ten days of acquaintance, or refusal of an invitation. Dinners, lunches, weddings, formal receptions, evening dances, all demand this formal call, which should not last over 15 or 20 minutes. Such a call is made by a woman between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and by a man not earlier than 8 and not later than 9:30 o'clock in the evening. Married men pay a call of this sort accompanied by their wives, after the dinner hour, or at an afternoon call, the wife leaving her husband's card with her own. Bachelors should always call in person after accepting any form of hospitality.

Giving an afternoon tea once a year is a favorite means for persons of moderate income to pay off all social debts. This necessitates sending calling cards to each and every friend with the date of the tea and the hours 4-6 or 4-11, inscribed in writing in the lower left-hand corner. Simple refreshments such as hot chocolate or carefully brewed tea and various kinds of sweet cookies and cakes are served on this day. The hostess should be in person at the hour to assist her in entertaining the guests should her list of friends be large, always picking out young women who are attractive and can keep the ball of conversation rolling. For no matter how unpretentious these afternoon teas may be, a hostess will have amply repaid her obligations if each one of her guests is treated with consideration and made to feel that he or she is essential to the success of the function.

Some families pay their social debts by entertaining their friends at different times through the year at dinner in their home. This is an intimate form of hospitality that each one of her guests, no matter how proud or humble the position in life.

More elaborate and expensive forms of entertainment are given in wide range for the person who has the time and means to give them. Whatever the function, however, it should be in keeping with the income of the one who gives it. Paying social debts in any other way is unfair, both to one's self and to the person being entertained. The point is that each individual should realize his or her social obligations and meet them regularly in a friendly and thoughtful spirit.

New Gowns for Hard Service.

New gowns fashioned for hard service are, however, in the latest materials and cuts, many coat frocks in rough black, blue or brown serge being seen. On the coldest days these are worn over chemise and knitted vests for warmth, and the neckpiece of fur, whatever the skin, never seems very large.

Very plain hats are seen with these gowns, but the hats are generally with velvet and quill trimmings. Or, if the dress is of cloth, a folded piece of the same material or velvet may go with it, made becomingly as a huge velvet rosette, a flat bird or wings at the side.

One very important detail with the work-day girl-up, the skirt of which is always short enough to show sensible boots, is a little divided underskirt or pantalon of some warm material, which is worn in lieu of all other petticoats. For in mud, which the usual fluttering petticoats have, and the usual flapping and smearing over boots and gowns, is as thick as tar and almost as difficult to remove. Besides the little divided skirt, which is virtually a gymnasium trousers, fitting the hips with close yokes and hitting modestly lower down, are much warmer.

This is a very valuable attribute for any under-rigging that is to be worn in Paris, for unless a student lives in an exceptional way she must battle all winter with bitter cold. None of the little apartments are heated, nor are any of the student hotels where a few girls of tremendous courage (and very few pennies) live sometimes.

Prepare for the Cold.

As for the usual French boarding-house, it is an understood thing that the pensionaire comes provided as if for polar regions. Felt bedroom shoes, flannel smocks (to put over the shirt-waist while in the bedroom), and an eiderdown square for the foot of the bed, are indispensable comforts in Paris. For even in quite good boarding-houses only the salon, the dining-room and the halls are heated.

But the majority of the girls who live in the Quartier club together and take an apartment, going out for meals. The first breakfast, coffee or chocolate and rolls, they take at some coffee stand in a porte cochere, the carriage way of some little hotel or rented room house. This costs 5 cents (without butter), and the girls who are given to foregathering in pairs, dressed for the day's work, take it standing, without thought of embarrassment, since they are following the custom of the entire Quartier.

A raincoat and sandals and umbrella are very necessary comforts, for it rains a great deal in the winter in

Social Debts That Everyone Must Pay

Every Person Has Obligations to Be Met as Regular as Money Debts.

"DICK WORTHING'S wedding comes next week and we haven't sent any present yet. We must get something for him, and something that is really worth while, for we gave us those beautiful cups when we were married."

"But, Mary, the last installment on our furniture comes due next week and I thought surely I could get it out of the way for good and all. This will mean that it has to wait over for another month, and I'll have to lose the amount for prompt payment. Hang weddings, anyway! I wish we'd gone off and been married and told our friends afterward. We'll be paying for all the presents they gave us twice over before we get through."

The family of moderate income usually has just this sort of a problem to face two or three times a year. Wedding presents, like pew rent, have to be figured in the annual expenditures. It is all very well for the wife heads to sit by and say it isn't necessary to give them, but the household funds are rather low or the extra money happens to be needed at that time. But the fact remains, social debts have to have their interest paid quite as regularly as any other debt, and the wedding present which brought so much pleasure when you were married cannot be forgotten when your friend's wedding invitation comes round.

The same is true of every form of social entertainment. This invitation to dinner, that invitation to the theater or a visit at a friend's house in the country, with every person of moderate means which cannot be overlooked. How best to meet these obligations and still keep within an income is an important question with every person of moderate means who enjoys social intercourse.

Calling Cards Essential.

One of the first essentials in paying social debts is the calling card. These little pieces of pasteboard can wipe out a multitude of small obligations, and no one should be without a supply always on hand. The card, however, must be extremely neat, and engraved rather than printed.

For a man an oblong of pure white Bristol board an inch and a half wide and three or four inches long holds his name in full across the center of the card, with Mr. before it. Should he have the same name as his father or an older relative,

Jr. follows his name. The proper card for a girl is as nearly square as possible and at least two inches wide. For a man a still larger-size card carries her husband's name, preceded by Mrs. and which has her cards engraved with her maiden name preceding her husband's surname.

Aside from the cards themselves each person should have a package of small envelopes that exactly fit the size of the pasteboard. The uses of these apparently trivial little messengers are, multiple. In the first place they should always be left when an invitation is accepted in any formal function, such as a tea, a coming out or a wedding. They are dropped on a plate which stands near the door upon entering, and they serve to inform the hostess just who has accepted her hospitality and also aid her in making out future lists for invitations.

When making a call the card is always handed to the person who opens the door, unless the latter is a member of the family. At a hotel apartment house the card is given to the clerk at the desk to be sent to the rooms by a bellboy.

On the other hand, the invitation which is not accepted is acknowledged most satisfactorily by sending a card in an envelope of the same size on the day of the function. Letters of condolence or of congratulation are answered in the same way, inscribed in one's own handwriting with "many thanks." In sending a present of any kind either by mail, express or messenger, the card is enclosed, and if the person to whom the gift is sent is an intimate friend, all but the Christian name is crossed out by two straight lines run through the other words. Another important use of cards is when a man or woman suddenly leaves town and has not time to mail parting calls, in which case the calling card, inscribed with the new address and a few words such as "Sorry not to have seen you before I left," or simply the letters P. P. C. in one corner, will keep one in touch with acquaintances that are left behind.

The second great help in paying social debts is the letter. To give an impression of sincerity and correctness this should be inscribed always on a good quality of note paper with careful and neat handwriting and with an attentive consideration for what is said. Never write a social note in haste. Take plenty of time and make sure that it can be interpreted in one way only.

The most essential of the social notes is the bread and butter letter. After

spending a night at a friend's home, courtesy demands that a note shall be written to the mother of the family at least within three days of the time of departure. A second letter of appreciation addressed to the particular member of whom you were the guest is always in good form, though not absolutely necessary. One or the other of these notes, however, should under no condition be neglected. Especially if written in a happy and grateful spirit, they convey thanks to your hostess far beyond what repays either of them for their hospitality, while to omit the bread and butter letter means a decided breach of etiquette, and, in many cases, the failure to receive a second invitation.

Notes of Condolence.

Undoubtedly the most difficult note to write is the letter of condolence to express sympathy for some misfortune or loss which has come to a friend or acquaintance. Prone as is human nature to forget people in their sorrow, these slight expressions of friendship at such a time are doubly appreciated and help to wipe out many debts of kindness.

To bring real comfort to the person or persons to whom they are addressed, these notes should be free from all effusiveness and carry but the slightest reference to the friend's immediate trouble or sorrow. Lastly, write notes when your impulse prompts you to do so. Persons who come far between who do not like to find a personal letter in the day's mail, coming unexpectedly, it is even more welcome and the pleasure brings repays them for any pleasures they may have given you.

Unimportant as it may seem to dwell so long on cards and notes, as interest on social debts their value is inestimable and quite on a par with that commonly accepted courtesy for returning hospitality, the call. Formal or informal, the social call becomes more valuable each year as business and life in general become more strenuous. An annual visit to all friends has become not only a duty, but a necessity, for the work-a-day world and the social world are very closely interwoven. The person who makes a success in these days must give as much thought to sociability as to trades or professions. To this end a friendly call on old and new acquaintances at least once a year helps wonderfully in a business way, aside from the good-will credit established by a regular tending of "interest."

Duty calls include a short visit to a

Talk of Top Bureau Drawers

"FIVE demerits for an untidy top bureau drawer!"

The weekly inspector of pupils' rooms in the private boarding-school for young ladies, closed the door behind her and proceeded on her round of visits.

The girl whose bureau drawer had just been inspected threw herself on the bed with an explosion of pent-up anger and tears. She had had nothing but demerits the whole week long, and then to have five more tacked on because a few ribbons were out of place in that miserable old bureau!

Suddenly the tears stopped flowing, and the memory of an entire afternoon spent at hateful mathematics to work off the demerits vanished with the tears. She had an idea! The teacher never looked at anything but the top bureau drawer! Why not keep that endless collection of top-drawer knick-knacks in some other part of the bureau?

The next Saturday when the inspector came around on her tour of thankless visits her report for this girl's top bureau drawer was "perfect order." The fact that it held only a neck-ribbon and a comb and brush did not escape her scrutinizing eyes, nor did she examine further into the remaining drawers. She had been a girl once herself, and her duty called only for inspection of top bureau drawers.

Many a girl who is farther through her teens than this happy-go-lucky pupil has quite as much trouble with her top bureau drawer. A general mix-up in this catch-all of feminine accessories is an annoyance which every woman has to contend with, and now that little fixings are so numerous, the confusion is greater than ever.

The suggestion offered by the school-girl's faculty for getting around difficulties, simple though it may seem, is a very timely one. Dainty white collars and cuffs that are crushed into a drawer with a pile of gloves, several boxes of pins, jewelry, curling kids and stocks galore, come out looking well-mussed after two or three hurried searches among them to find a bit of lace or a piece of veiling that has slid out of sight. And the veiling

Talk of Top Bureau Drawers

itself has lost all semblance of freshness in its tight quarters.

The result is, the busy woman, when her toilette is completed, can lay no claim to looking smartly dressed, for no matter what supply of essential small accessories she may possess, once they have lost their stiff, fresh appearance, they detract rather than add to a costume.

Endless cases and boxes for holding the various articles are of very faint help, however. When a woman is in a hurry these are pulled in every direction and much of the contents with them. In a lower drawer, however—whichever one is used the least—packed in a neat, orderly fashion, accessories can be kept either in their special cases or each in its own pile, and there will be no occasion of a confused jumble every time a pin or a clean handkerchief is needed.

For some reason or other, as many times as it may be necessary to obtain some article from this lower drawer, its contents never receive the reckless mauling and crushing that they do in the top drawer. And though it usually takes a few days to become accustomed to the new order of things, a woman is trebly repaid by the spick-and-span neatness and smoothness that each bit of finery presents when she comes to wear it.

A Scotch Impressionist?

Harper's Magazine.

Not long ago the son of a well-known college professor was trotting across the campus, when he was hailed by one of the students, who walked along with him and entered into friendly chat.

"Well, John, what are you going to be when you grow up?"

"I'm going to be a painter," declared the youngster.

"Oh, are you? What are you going to paint—pictures?"

"No—scenery." "I am going to paint the inside of houses and the outside of houses."

"I see. And what color are you going to have your houses?"

John reflected a moment. This was a point to which he had given no previous consideration. Then he announced: "I am going to have them the color of the paint."