TOILETS for LADIES NOT ELDERLY, BUT SWEETLY OLD.

"WHAT is more delightful," writes a French authority on dress matters, "than to see a really old woman exquisitely gowned—the woman of 65 and more who has emerged triumphantly from the storms of life and fallen gracefully into that delicate peace which is the crown of age, that faded and last prettiness which has earned the right to all the fairer and sweeter things in life, and which, delicious to relate, is often accompanied by a captivating fondness for pretty clothes? In short, that lady who is not 'elderly' any more, but is at last sweetly and simply and beautifully old."

Beginning with mere materials, the textures of the moment in all respects are suited to beautifying age. The gorgeous silks, stiff with gold and silver patterns, the handsome and dignified moires, the velvets falling as lightly as muslins—all these, fashionable when Old World dames carried jeweled snuff boxes and wore pale blue and patches and pink roses in their hair, are again in vogue. Some of the colors affected long ago are especially admired this season—framboise, vieux-rose, silver blue—and in all of these delicate yet rich tints have been seen evening gowns for old ladies.

The styles of these dresses do not vary greatly from those for more youthful wearers. Skirts are perhaps more often plain than trimmed, and there is a tendency with bodices to conceal stiffness by means of a looser cut. But there are the same yokes, the same elbow sleeves, in effect if not in reality, and in some instances the same suggestion of high girdling. Especially for very slight figures are the more elegant styles coquettish and frou-frou, and though the dame's age might, to many minds, call for a bonnet, her white head is as frequently topped by a jaunty hat.

Many very dressy gowns, such as are designed for receptions, theater wear, visiting, etc., show a combination of lace skirt and pelisse or redingote of velvet or silk or satin. The handsomer of these costumes are in one color, and the foundation lace of the skirt is made more impressively rich with heavy gulpures and embroideries of all sorts.

Furs elaborately voluminous, with tails, and very generous in size, accompany these toilettes, which may also with perfect taste be set off by a brooch or chain of precious stones. The lovely old cameos, once the rage, set with pearls and diamonds, are much affected by the smarter dressers. Bracelets made of velvet bands, fastened with the smaller of these brooches, are also in vogue.

Gowns strictly for indoor use show a dressy melange of tea gown and reception toilet. Some charming indoor ideas developed by a "grand" French house display loose sacques of lace over skirts of mousseline, silk or velvet.

The revival of shawls is a happy kindness to the old, for many old ladies need constantly to have something about their shoulders and the lovely designs and colorings of the new ones lend themselves with special grace to the women well past middle age. No matter how light the shawl, it provides some degree of warmth, and in the long, narrow stripes in which they now come, all can be easily and gracefully draped.

For intimate every-day use, the tiny squares of ice wool, which are everywhere displayed in lovely old lady grays and violets, are sometimes worn about the head in headdress fashion. A handsome lace scarf shaped into a headdress about the face with a ribbon is always becoming. In fact, all soft and mellowing effects, all caressing coquetries are aids and abettors to the charms of the grandmother.

Street toilettes, for the more aged, naturally conform in some degree to long-established traditions. There are more old lady frocks in black than anything else, and more old lady bonnets by far than hats. But the finer of the street frocks are very splendid.

The already rich stuffs bristle with the application of other rich materials, and sometimes, joyful to relate, there is a smart gown in a rich color, which gives a sturdy old lady a most triumphant air. One such recently seen was made of dark wine-colored cloth, with cut-out cloth in bands upon velvet. The jaunty jacket was hip length and loose, the wide three-quarter sleeves, which were looped up in a most youthful way, showing big undersleeves of wine-colored lace. With this stunning gown was worn a little Marie Stuart bonnet of wine-colored velvet, trimmed with the wine-colored ostrich feathers tipped with black. The furs were baby lamb, the little pelerine and big muff being in the new grandmother shapes.

All the furs advanced for aged wearers are of the handsomer sort, as they should be. Persian lamb and baby lamb are preferred pelts, but stunning sets are seen in black lynx, silver lynx and silver fox, to say nothing of almost royal wrappings of imperial Russian sable. Ermine, too, has its place in the wardrobe of the elegant woman of advanced years, for this snowy and precious skin is the privilege of all.

It is seen forming the collars and cuffs of some magnificent evening wraps. It is also used as lining for the more superb of these, and there are charming carriage hoods of ermine with accompanying muffs so big that they would be a burden were it not for the feathery lightness now in vogue for all furs.

"When gowned in pale gray or violet, with a pelerine and muff of ermine, the evening bonnet of a grand old lady," writes the afore quoted authority, "should show a white aigrette immensely high. Held by a jeweled clasp, the white aigrette is also a recognized ornament de coiffure, adorable grandmothers wearing them as well as their granddaughters. more chic of these charming old ladies also carry round lorgnettes (round glass) and little boltes de pastilles (boxes of throat lozenges) shaped exactly like the gold snuff boxes of ancient times. In fact some are the genuine article, those of all the Louis periods having at present a tremendous vogue."

Apropos of things French the tinseled trifles of the moment, especially in the form of military garnishings, are charming for the old. The sophisticated shades of gold and silver, leaning as they do to wistfully tarnished effects, always seem somehow to need a history, a life, to carry them off. So a little bonnet tenderly colored in faint violet, gray, or some of the shades of white, set off by these dimly luminous blossoms, is adorable upon a fine gray head. The hardness of some of the tinseled roses is softened by means of tulle centers, the green used showing often a moss rose hue.

An elegant bonnet for the dressiest moments is a very essential need for a woman in years, and since fashion allows her the daintiest colors, it may be most tenderly tinted. But since the majority of old ladies prefer black, a number of smarter bonnets are of jet or lace, with superb touches of white. Lace applications, an aigrette, or ostrich feathers, may effect this touch. Narrow velvet strings, which are still tied in a little bow under the chin, show a facing of white satin.

And now for some descriptions of costumes lately designed for actual wearers.

Taking the drawing, "Indoor and Visiting Toilets," first, the elaborate gown worn by the visitor is of a matchless loveliness. With a skirt of black lace, maroon guipure and net, is a pelisse of maroon velvet applied with black guipure. The hat is of white lace, faced with maroon velvet, and it is trimmed with maroon feathers interspersed with black and white. The furs are silver fox.

The graceful and suitable toilet worn by the hostess is a scheme in gray and silver-blue. The full tucked skirt is of gray chiffon cloth over a silk lining in the dim moonlight blue. The loose coat is also gray. Heavy guipure lace over blue chiffon forms it, with the gray chiffon cloth for the sleeves, and a band of silver blue velvet edging the front. Pure white net, embroidered at the edge with silver, shapes the vest.

Two charming wraps for evening or elegant day use are shown by the second drawing. The most distinctive of the pair is given in two poses, back and front view, and in this instance the materials used are pale gray chiffon velvet and ermine. But any soft silk properly interlined could be employed for this most graceful wrap, which a good dressmaker could carry out with ease. While most concealing, the lines of this wrap have yet a stamp of delightful coquetry, the pelerine arrangement of the back and cape effect of the front suiting, however, only a very old lady.

The coat shown in the center is of black satin, ermine and white guipure. Black cloth, or cloth in any suitable shade, could likewise be employed for this coat, and Persian lamb and black guipure would render it suitable for any service.

But coming down to the very gist of things, even though a degree of astonishing gaiety is allowed the very oldest ladies, the wearer's type must nevertheless be still considered. Slim figures have decidedly more privileges in point of cut than stouter ones, and the good complexioned more leeway in point of coloring than the woman with little or no color.

But the fact that old ladies can once more be dressed in joyous ways is certainly a matter for congratulation, for there is no doubt that blithe externals bring about happier frames of mind.

"At last," concludes the French writer, "since the old are like the very young, the sweetest ornaments of the household, daughters should consider the planning of toilets for grandmamma their sacred pleasure. Many an old lady would be divinely gowned if she had the strength to wrestle with the problem of clothes."

MARY DEAN.

Remunerative Work for the Blind People

Helen Keller in Youth's Companion.

THE blind as a rule are poor. The parents of most of the children in the institutions for the blind are working people, and the man struck blind by accident or disease is usually a breadwinner. It is not uncommon for a young man to lose his sight in such occupations as stone-cutting, diamond-polishing, glazing and blasting rocks. Without assistance, men thus blinded are doomed to involuntary idleness for the rest of their lives.

Up to the present day no adequate provision has been made for this class of blind persons in America, although Dr. Samuel G. Howe, the friend of all the afflicted and the pioneer in the education of the blind in the United States, outlined a plan to meet the industrial requirements of the adult blind more than 60 years ago.

We must cross the Atlantic and visit the old world to find a practical demonstration of what the blind can do. The first institution for the employment of the blind was founded at Edinburgh in 1793. Since then workshops, salesrooms and associations of agencies to promote the business interests of the blind have been established in Europe.

In Europe the emphasis has been upon industrial training, while in America more attention has been given to book education. When a pupil in a school for the blind in England or France shows no special aptitude for music or intellectual pursuits, he is put into the work department, where he learns a trade. Afterward the institution, or one of the agencies for the purpose in his country, seeks out a position for him, and stands by him until he has proved his efficiency. On the other hand, when a student shows marked ability in any direction, he receives opportunity to fit himself for a more responsible position. If a school for the blind has trained an organist who is capable of filling a church position, the agencies for the blind keep a lookout for a vacancy.

When the agent hears of one, he goes to the place and tells the church committee of a blind man who is competent to fill the position. The committee is probably very skeptical and very reluctant to try so doubtful an experiment. The agent, however, is eloquent, and persuades them to give the man a trial. The man comes, plays, and conquers.

In London there is a tea agency of which the managers are wholly or partially blind. Many blind agents are selling its teas, coffees and cocoas in all parts of England.

Last June there was held in Edinburgh an exhibition of the work of the blind all over the world. A whole floor was devoted to weaving machines and typewriters, and blind people demonstrated their skill as weavers, masseurs, carpenters and musicians. At the Glasgow asylum the blind have produced salable articles for 80 years, and in three recent years the average annual sales abounted to £29,000 sterling.

In English cities from 6 to 12 per cent of the blind are in workshops; in America only 600 blind persons, about 1 per cent of the entire number, are employed in industrial establishments.

But a brighter day dawned for the blind in America when New York and Massachusetts awoke to the necessity of looking into the condition of the sightless. Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, California and Michigan are all active in the effort to make wage-earners of the blind. The nature of the work which has begun, and should be extended as rapidly as possible, is represented by the endeavors of the Massachusetts association to promote the interests of the adult blind.

This association has opened an experiment station in Cambridge, to find and test industries that seem practicable for the sightless. The blind are sought out in their homes, and when possible they are taught trades, their work is brought to the notice of the public, and the capacity of blind men and women to operate certain automatic machines in factories is demonstrated to employers.

Hitherto the chief industries of the blind have been the manufacture of brooms, mattresses, baskets, brushes and mats, not all of which are profitable in this country. The effort should be to increase the number of possible lucrative occupations for the sightless.

A young man was trained at the station in Cambridge in 10 days to cut box corners in a paper and tag factory to the satisfaction of his employer. Another young man has succeeded in taking, by means of a shorthand writing machine, acceptable interviews for a newspaper. A young blind woman was taken from the poorhouse, where she had been for three years, and placed in a hairpin factory, where she has found work that she is capable of doing.

The experiment station is now at work on a patented mop invented by a blind man. This "Wonder mop" can be made entirely without sight, and the plan is to have blind agents from Maine to California sell it.

How to Begin Good Natured

IN a household that runs smoothly, one member of the family has to have the courage to be the first up. In the average home, for some inexplicable reason, each person waits for the other one to get out of bed, with the result that every one is dressing together, and a common mirror or wash basin is always most in demand when someone else is using it.

As a consequence there is a general confusion, a great rush to the breakfast table and a final hustle to leave the house, usually with the remark: "I'm always late for business," or "Why don't I ever have my breakfast on time?" or that most exasperating of all exclamations: "It's money, money, all the time!" following a gentle request for the weekly allowance or the wherewithal to pay the grocer's bill. And the breadwinner, be it man or woman, goes off to business with a scowl and a lament that such a thing as work was ever invented.

Upon the one who stays at home devolves the duty of setting this frequent morning tangle straight, and the first step is for the housewife to be up at least 15 minutes before it is time for the others to arise. This gives her a chance to start things going in the kitchen and to call the family, so that each one will be partially awakened and waiting for his or her turn to dress.

Aggravating delays in dressing usually are caused by some garment being minus a button, a buttonhole being broken, or the failure to find some article of attire which was sent to the laundry and has not yet found its way back to the owner's bureau. This is another small but important task which the housewife must attend to if she wishes to have the family start off happily in the morning. At the end of every week all buttons should be sewed on, the stockings mended and folded, the shirts from the steam laundry looked over to make sure they don't need attention, and then all carefully put away in their respective bureau drawers. Nothing is quite so helpful in the morning, or at any time for that matter, as to find one's clothes in their customary place and ready to put on.

The housewife needs also to keep the racks well filled with clean towels, for it takes time when a person's eyes are half-shut with water and hands are dripping wet to hunt around in search of a wiper with which to dry them. And this is more likely than not to happen if fresh towels are not hung in place immediately the soiled ones are taken down to be laundered.

That the breakfast should be on the table the moment the family is ready to sit down is most essential, and it should be piping hot, too. The man or woman who starts off to work on a warm, nourishing breakfast generally leaves the house with a smile, and unless the meal has been swallowed in three of four mouthfuls, the smile will not "come off" all day.

Heavy food should never be sent to the family breakfast table, and hashes of all sorts should be reserved for luncheon. Eggs, a freshly-brewed hot cup of tea or coffee, a hot, crisp roll and a bit of fruit, if possible, are ample for any one who works in an office all day. On the other hand, the person who is out of doors a great deal should be served a full-fledged meal.

The stay-at-homes should appear at the breakfast table with a well groomed look, even though it is early in the morning. It helps these who go out as breadwinners to have the rest of the family interested enough to be on hand for a cheery "Good morning," and to have a trim, wideawake appearance.

Finally, there are very few persons whose disposition will endure much conversation before the middle of the morning or noon, and she is a wise woman who is chary of her words at an early hour of the day. Men especially have the whole plan of the day's work mapped out in their minds before leaving the house in the morning, and it is most distracting to be pestered with a thousand-and-one unimportant questions that have no bearing on the business of the day.

Women in Men's Vocations.

Logansport, Ind., can boast of a woman who runs an engine, fires a boiler and keeps the books in her husband's establishment. She is Mrs. H. D. Schaefer. Beside her work on the machinery she keeps house and attends to the care and education of her two little girls.

The first woman to hold a position of lecturer on agriculture and domestic science in the University of California is Miss Metta Edna Woodworth, whose home is in Burlington, Ia. She has devoted herself to sanitation of farmhouses, house buildings, preservation of foods and cooking.

For 13 years Mrs. Matilda Coxe Stevenson explored the Rocky Mountains with her husband, collecting archaic implements, ceramics and ceremonial objects for the United States National Museum. She has been invaluable to the Bureau of American Ethnology, and is now a member of its staff.

An Explanation.

"I beg your pardon, waiter," said the tourist in the railway restaurant, "did you say that I had 20 minutes to wait or that it was 20 minutes to eight?" "I said neyther," answered the Hibernian attendant. "I said yez had twinty minutes to ate, an' that's all ye had. Yer thrain's gone now."—Cleveland Leader.

Some Suitable Prizes for the Card Parties

CARD PARTIES just at this season are the all-popular manner of entertaining one's friends, and the crying need of the successful hostess is a selection of suitable prizes. That they shall be inexpensive is essential, for costly gifts are quite out of date, and the woman whose prizes are most sought after is she who gives small, useful articles that still are attractive and somewhat unusual. Then, too, a hostess has to keep in mind in considering the tastes of both men and women that she is catering to their likes rather than to her own fancies.

For this reason the most acceptable prizes are in leather or in crystal and nickel, both of which shape so many of the new desk and office table appliances, as well as numberless convenient trappings that make up a smoker's equipment. Leather articles are particularly neat and appeal quite as strongly to feminine tastes, while the crystal novelties are the very newest offering of the Winter.

Practical prizes among the leather goods are boxes and cases that inclose playing-cards and complete outfits for the various games of euchre, bridge whist, penochle, etc. A single case holds only one game, but everything that could possibly be used in playing it, including rules, tally cards, pencils and reckoning pads, is enclosed in the leather receptacle. Boxes in all sorts of odd shapes, marked "Bridge," are covered with paper in splendid imitation of the fancy leathers, and are a real ornament, aside from their being wonderfully handy for persons with whom whist is a regular pastime.

Another desirable prize in leather is a pack of playing-cards with artistically decorated backs, wrapped in a supple case of delicately tinted suede. The latter is merely a strip of leather in old rose, porcelain blue or lavender, with a nickel clasp on either end. Narrow straps hold the cards securely in the center of the case. Prettily printed playing-cards, with gilt edges, are also inclosed in a flexible pasteboard case, covered with denim and set off by a hand-painted scene or an embroidered scroll.

The trump displayer, a whist accessory, which has long been needed, has at last made its appearance, and is to be found both in leather and nickel. In form it is very much like a ring or watch basket, with a button at the top, which regulates the small celluloid discs marked in red and black, with diamonds, hearts, clubs and spades. These indicators are sold in several different sizes at from one to three dollars apiece.

Crystal smoking sets, with nickel frames, display all sorts of ingenious devices, not the least unusual of which is a long, narrow tray of thick, clear glass edged with nickel, and having attached on one side a miniature steam boiler in nickel, which serves as a lamp to light cigars and cigarettes. Matchboxes, ash trays, cigar-cutters, etc., can also be found in this bright crystal ware, and afford a really charming prize for men.

Quite impersonal, also, but always an acceptable present, are the numerous fittings for a desk in brass, of which none is more fascinating than the paper clips showing animal heads. Sleepy owls, fierce bulldogs, and even elephants' heads, are hammered in brass and form the upper part of a strong spring clip that is intended to keep letters and various documents from blowing away or from being scattered loosely over the desk. Inkwells of crystal are similarly adorned, the hammered brass heads acting as a cover for the ink receptacle.

Along with these useful and decorative prizes are some really comical ornaments in porcelain, which cause a great deal of fun. A dog with his head in a red bandana handkerchief, a cat with staring eyes and dotted with odd geometrical figures, or a group of one or two rabbits wrought in purest white porcelain, are valuable not only as unique bric-a-brac, but by reason of their being copies of the famous royal Copenhagen porcelain, they have a highly artistic value as well.

Pie Guaranteed Digestible

New York Tribune.

WHEN properly made and eaten in moderation, pie is a wholesome food. But how seldom are its crusts and filling prepared with that care which is necessary to produce a digestible dish. A simple rule for pastry, and one that is new to these columns, is the following: To every six large tablespoonfuls of flour add three ordinary tablespoonfuls of butter. Mix together with a knife, stir in seven tablespoonfuls of ice water and mix again. Add a little lemon juice. Then proceed as for any ordinary rule. This recipe does not contain as much butter as most piecrust rules, and therefore is not so rich. The touch of lemon juice, however, gives the needed tenderness.

In regard to pumpkin pie, if baked pumpkin is used instead of boiled pumpkin, the pie will be richer. Place the pieces of pumpkin on a large pie plate. Cover with a deep tin, and place in the oven. When the pumpkin is tender it is ready. There will be no superfluous juice clinging to it, as is the case with boiled pumpkin. It will not brown if properly covered. If pumpkin is preferred boiled, place it on the back of the stove without peeling it, and add just enough water to keep it from burning.

Let it steam in this way or gradually cook for several hours. Long, slow cooking seems to bring out the flavor of pumpkin. Do not think you can make a successful pumpkin pie without a plentiful use of good, fresh eggs. Pumpkin pie is by right a form of custard. It should bake some time so that the custard will absorb the pumpkin pulp and cook down until the whole is thoroughly done. A pumpkin pie that is not cooked sufficiently has a raw taste. A good cook, after trying various rules for pumpkin pie, has found the following the best: To every four cups of pumpkin add four cups of milk, four eggs, a cup and a half of sugar, half a grated nutmeg, a tablespoonful of ginger, a tablespoonful of mace and a teaspoonful of salt. Half a cup of cream adds richness.

An old subscriber to the Tribune says that in return for helpful hints given to her in these columns she sends her rule for apple pie. She prepares the crust the day before baking. The apples are steamed on top of the stove until rather tender, but not broken. Just as they are put in the pie the sugar and a pinch of cinnamon are added; then the top crust is put on and the whole baked.

An Irish apple pie makes an agreeable change. Cut the apples into the thinnest of slices, sprinkle them with sugar, add the grated rind of half a lemon and three cloves to every pie. Bake with an upper crust. This recipe will be found nice if made into small individual pies in so-called tart forms.

Some one has suggested serving lemon pies in the form of small tarts, because there will then be no danger of seeing the meringue collapse in the center when it is served. If the meringue is cooked long enough and in an oven that is slow enough after the egg whites have been thoroughly whipped, there will be no danger of such a mishap. Individual lemon tarts, however, are delightful. A good lemon batter for them is made as follows: Mix half a pound of pulverized sugar with one or two yolks of eggs and the grated rind and juice of 1½ lemons. Fold in the whites of three eggs. Stir it over the fire for a few minutes and fill the tart shells.

Fair Exchange No Robbery.

He—How beautiful you are today.

She—And how witty you were—yesterday.—Le Rire.