

### WOMAN'S WORLD.

#### HOW GIRLS MAY LEARN TO SKATE AND WHAT TO WEAR.

**Girls Demand More Pay—The Gains of a Year—The Pinafore Gowns—Games for Winter Evenings—A Town with City Mothers—A Louisiana Apron.**

The modern girl skater better merits the description given her ancestress by an old chronicler, who writes that she went "as swiftly as a bird flyeth in the air, or an arrow out of a crossbow."

The best skate is one that clamps firmly on the heel and fits the edges so tightly it becomes a part of the foot itself. It should be accurately and perfectly steady if properly strapped to the foot. Laced boots for skating are to be preferred to buttoned, as they permit the freer circulation of the blood. The beginner might advantageously carry a stick or light pole in the hand, but never is a friend so much in need as when her trusty hand forms the mainstay on the treacherous and unknown slippery surface.

But make a trial, learn to balance the body properly, and with a little confidence success will come very soon. It is wonderful how soon children learn to skate. Tiny little bodies, wee bits of womanly humanity dart by their elder sisters so cautiously feeling their way, bright fishes of gold and silver as it were, flitting by some unwieldy body of the deep.

The girl skater in learning ought never to look at her feet, should keep the head up, advancing the body, her face in the direction she is going, and the body slightly inclined forward, according to the first principle of gravitation, which in scientific language says, keep the center of gravity over the base. In skating all movements should be smooth and graceful, and an effort made to keep quite free from jerking and awkward gestures.

The art of stopping is soon learned. Slightly bend the knees, bring the heels together and bear upon them. It may also be accomplished by turning short to the right or left, and as you and I know too often happens to us by sudden contact with what acts in place of "terra firma" and from no desire on our part to reach so decided a halt. The best skaters avoid swinging the arms. They are also careful to wear a close fitting dress, as full and loose clothes catch the wind and retard progress. A sensible skater never ventures on thin ice, and unless perfectly sure that the glassy rink will bear her weight does not dream of putting on her skates.

First of all a skating costume needs to be short, and next it should be simple. These requirements reached it may be as pretty as is desired. A very stylish one is made of Scotch homespun in warm browns, and is really what might be called a polonaise costume, as it is all in one piece. Wrinkled across the front sufficiently to be graceful, it is yet quite plain about the lower portion of the skirt, and is arranged in box plaits in the back, so that sufficient fullness is given to allow absolute freedom of the body.

It is double breasted and closed with large brown buttons, while a high collar and single revers that extends well across one side of Alaska sable are its only trimmings. The sleeves are moderately high and easy in their fit, and the gloves worn are gauntlets of heavy kid that button far up over the sleeve. The hat is a Tam of the same material as the dress, with a tiny fluffy pompon, like a Panjandrum's button, just on top of it. The muff is of Alaska sable to match the collar. The whole effect is so good that one feels quite certain that the girl who is going to skate herself into the good graces of somebody will want one just like it.—Ellen Le Garde in Ladies' Home Journal.

**Girls Demand More Pay.**  
For the last five weeks ninety-nine women have been without work in the East End in order to persuade their employers to pay them 2d. an hour, or 9s. a week. They have not been stirred up by agitators, for their secretary, Mrs. Hicks, has had her persuasive powers taxed constantly for the last twelve months to keep them from coming out before their union was thoroughly organized and a balance of over 250 to their credit at the bank. A year ago Miss Clementina Black was beginning to form women's unions in the East End, and the girls at Frost's rope factory in the Commercial road expressed a willingness to join.

So one night Miss Black and Mrs. Hicks went to the gates as they opened to let the girls out from their work, and the moment they were seen there was a rush and a cheer, and that night 130 girls had given in their names, and they have kept up their payments ever since. Their wages varied from 7s. 6d. to 10s. for fifty-hours, which meant less than 1d. for the lowest, and less than 2 1/2d. an hour for the skilled hands, some of whom had been fifteen years in the factory, and they determined that no girl should work among the machinery for less than 2d. an hour, and that the rest should be raised proportionately.

They have waited for a favorable opportunity. Messrs. Frost have introduced some valuable new machinery, meaning, it is declared, a considerable enlargement to their business, and their hands have asked for a rise in their wages. This has been refused, so they decline to work and appeal to the public for support. This has been given in the shape of a warm recommendation from the London trades council, several handsome donations from different trades unions, and generous help from working men through the collecting boxes.—Pall Mall Gazette.

**The Gains of a Year.**  
As the old year goes out we reckon up its gains. Foremost of all there is the admission of Wyoming, the first woman suffrage state; then the majority report of the judiciary committee of the United States house of representatives in favor of a sixteenth amendment. Then there is the brave canvass in South Dakota. The battle was lost, as it was at Bunker

Hill, but the same ultimate victory awaits those who fought that good fight. The Mississippi constitutional convention, by its consideration of the suffrage question, caused it to be discussed all over the south.

The agitation of this subject in the Kentucky constitutional convention has roused the whole state, and many of its noblest women have brought their best service to help the state to be just to women. The Methodist church has carried on a woman suffrage campaign for several months, resulting in a majority vote for the admission of women as lay delegates to its highest church council. Public sentiment in favor of equal rights is growing steadily all along the line. Let us thank God and take courage.—Boston Woman's Journal.

**The Pinafore Gown.**  
One of the latest notions in fashionable dressmaking is the "pinafore" gown, for house or street wear, according to the materials and trimmings. It is not an expensive fancy, as only 5 1/2 yards of cashmere are required and 2 1/2 yards of brocade or velvet, or 1 1/2 yard of ladies' cloth. Another beauty about the gown is its air of charming simplicity combined with style.

The smaller quantity of material forms the collar, yoke, sleeves and belt, which is pointed in front and shaped to the figure to set down below the waist line. The sleeves are full over the shoulders, and the yoke may be in the front only or be of the same shape in the back. The bodice opens invisibly down the left shoulder and under arm seam.

The dress material is cut like a low, round necked bodice, slightly pointed on the lower edge, back and front, with the usual dart fullness held in tiny overlapping plaits that disappear under the edge of the shaped belt. The arm sizes of this second art of the bodice are cut out sufficiently to show the contrasting material beneath. An edging of jet, tinsel, etc., may be used on the neck and arm sizes if desired.

The skirt has a gathered back and almost plain front, broken by a few folds at the top. Street gowns of fine woolen goods have the yoke and sleeves of ladies' cloth. One, of a purplish plum cashmere, has the second fabric of tan broadcloth and an edging of fine jet only half an inch in width. A house gown of gray Henrietta has the upper part of pink and gray brocade and the passementerie of silver.—Dry Goods Economist.

**Games for Winter Evenings.**  
Like many another good thing the prettiest of all the parlor sports this season has been taken by the manufacturers from the days of our grandmothers. This is "grace hoops," which "befo' the wah" was the great winter amusement. It is calculated to bring out everything that is most graceful in a pretty girl's form, but of late the taste for the game has suffered sadly.

That other old time game, "shuttlecock and battledore," has also come in for a good share of renewed interest, and a number of improvements and variations are offered this year. One of the best, requiring as it does a quick eye and live action, and offering the most delightful opportunities to a graceful girl, comes from France. The battledore is shaped not unlike a blunderbus. The barrel is about twelve or fourteen inches long, and shoots the shuttlecock into the air by means of a strong spring. To catch it properly and gracefully in the mouth of the battledore requires any amount of the most invigorating exercise.—New York World.

**A Town with City Mothers.**  
Some public spirited women in a winter resort in Florida have formed themselves into a society which they call the Village Improvement association, and have assumed the duty of keeping the streets clean. They employ a man to pick up every scrap of refuse which litters the pavement or gutter, and, as this factum is practically in the employ and under the authority of every woman in town, whose vigilance is unceasing, his work is thoroughly and efficiently accomplished. At intervals along the pavement they have caused to be placed neatly painted barrels, with a bit of verse begging the passerby to utilize them by tossing into them the bit of paper, cigar stump, or fruit skin which would otherwise be thrown down untidily. They have also organized the children into a society pledged not to throw any kind of litter into the public ways. That town is a model of Utopian cleanliness, and suggests the idea that "city mothers" instead of fathers might be successful.—Exchange.

**A Louisiana Apron.**  
An apron exhibited by Mrs. Laura C. Holmes, and designed and executed by Mrs. Florence C. Thompkins and Miss Mattie Cooney, took a prize in the National Apron bazaar at Kansas City the other day. The apron was made to represent Louisiana, and very ingeniously combined six products of the state. The body of the apron was of raw cotton batting, with a bunch of sugar cane painted in the left corner, while in the right corner rice, gined to the apron, appeared to be tumbling from a pocket made of the red flowering leaf of the banana tree. Moss outlined the left edge, and orange peel, cut diamond shape, was sewed about the bottom and up the right side. A belt plaited of lantane completed this really artistic and unique specimen of the handiwork of two New Orleans ladies.—New Orleans Picayune.

**Faded Roses for Perfumes.**  
A new and dainty device fills the house with the odor of June gardens at comparatively small expense even in January. It was in a dimly lighted parlor that I felt stealing over my senses memories of summer time, stray bits of the flower lore Philip Marston revealed in, all within sound of the roar and rattle of stone paved, busy, bustling New York. There were no flowers visible in the room, but still the faint, delicate breath of roses permeated the dim light and puzzled as well as delighted me until a servant came in and threw back the hangings, when I discovered close beside me

an odd little crumpled basket of delicate china filled to the edge with loose rose leaves tossed lightly in one upon another. A single fragrant rose, too much faded to be ornamental, will yield more perfume in this way than a fresh flower standing upright in a glass, and all manner of little odd shaped dishes are utilized as receptacles. A braided straw hat of Dresden china tied up with blue china ribbons and heaped with the petals of an American beauty rose is a delight to sight and smell as well.—New York Letter.

**Enterprise of a Busy Maine Teacher.**  
A Waldo county (Me.) teacher not yet out of her teens, besides her school duties, finds time for considerable outside work, and it is claimed has distanced all the farmers in the vicinity in making money by raising sheep. Out of four sheep last year she has made \$50. Providence favored her a little, for the four sheep brought forth eight lambs, all of which lived and were sold at a fair price. Then she had the four sheep sheared, carded and spun the wool, and after school hours knit it all into men's heavy mittens, for which she found a ready market.—Bangor News.

**Oxford and Woman.**  
The statute providing for the admission of women to medical examinations at Oxford was rejected by only four votes. This practically insures its success in the future, and the opposition will not be long maintained. The number of women students in the healing art increases almost daily, and their achievements in the profession are constantly gaining in dignity and importance. A large hospital for women in London lately opened, which is ministered to by women only, is crowded to its fullest capacity all the time.—New York Sun.

**A New Fad in Dinners.**  
A quite new fad is the progressive dinner party. Instead of seating all the guests at one table they are divided up into parties and seated at small tables around the large central table. Then very much the same rules which are in vogue for progressive card parties are observed. You are rung up at a certain course and move to another table. This is all very nice when you are talking to a stupid neighbor, but not so agreeable when you are deep in a delightful flirtation which is abruptly terminated.—New York Cor. Chicago Herald.

**Sorosis in Bombay.**  
The Bombay branch of the Sorosis club has increased to 130 members, and is about to apply for admission into the federation of clubs. Its members congregate to discuss gravely parliamentary questions, the lives of noted women, technical training, and other equally serious and advanced subjects, in "saree" of wonderful eastern stuffs, in the most delicate shades, with borders and fringes of gold. These Parsee ladies are justly celebrated for their beautiful jewels and rich robes.—London Letter.

**A Princess' Youth.**  
The Princess of Wales is said to be the youngest looking woman of her age in England, and to owe the wonderful preservation of her youth and beauty to her ability to take a little sleep at her will, a power which she is able to call to her assistance even for a five or ten minute interval in the rush of her many duties. She seems like a sister to her three tall daughters, and a sister but slightly in advance of them in years.—London Letter

The Countess Edia, whose beautiful singing as a prima donna made her the morganatic wife of the late Prince Ferdinand of Portugal, was once a poor and obscure Boston girl named Elise Hensler. She has adopted Lisbon as her home, and is adored by the Lisbonese, among whom she spends in charities almost the entire income of her fortune of 20,000,000 francs.

A woman's club is about to be opened in Paris whose system might well be copied. It is to be exclusively feminine. Its chief feature is to be the library, in which no book written by man is to have a place, and there will be a picture gallery on the same lines. The queen of Romania has consented to act as president.

Whatever may be said of Miss Susan B. Anthony, she cannot at least be charged with vanity. She is now sitting to a Boston artist for her first portrait. There are few women equally conspicuous who have not sought to preserve their charms for an admiring posterity by the help of friendly art.

One immense rose is the fashion nowadays, and it must be carried like an alpenstock with a yard or two of stem dangling, or it may be worn high in the belt so that the rose comes just under the chin. A bunch is not permissible. It must be just one rose or none at all.

Mrs. Alice Shaw starts soon on her whistling tour around the world. Miss Mabel Stevenson, another well known "siffleuse," as the whistling star is now known, has been very ill since her return from abroad, and has been obliged to cancel all her engagements.

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Reed, whose new work on Hindoo literature has attracted attention, has been invited to give an address before the American Institute of Philosophy. Mrs. Reed is a prominent member of the Illinois Woman's Press association.

Miles. Diane and Hera Coomans, daughters of the great Josef Coomans who died about a year ago, have inherited their father's talent for painting, and have opened a studio in New York, where they do wonderful work on kid and gauze for fans.

The receipts during the past year of the northwestern branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society, including the balance of the year before, were \$53,836; expenditures, \$45,270.

Nine hundred and ninety two women registered at Cheyenne, Wyo., for the recent elections. Several women rode twenty-six miles into Cheyenne to vote.

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