

a tonic. The so called tonic was a beaming smile.

HOW SHE DISMOUNTS.

'Really,' the smile said, 'you do the most graceful fall I have ever seen. You should be proud of it.' But the instructress herself said:—'If you'll promise, madame, not to be afraid, you can learn to mount and dismount without a bit of trouble.'

Then she took hold of the frame, raised the bicycle and spun the hind wheel until the left pedal was uppermost. Holding the handle bar firmly, she stepped up on the left pedal, stood on it as it descended, and as it rose again settled down easily on the saddle. Her skirts, which fell to her gaiter tops, seemed to drape themselves on either side of the saddle. They flowed away in easy, graceful lines. The instructress sailed, rather than wheeled around the room. She sprinted a little, as she approached—just a couple of hard, quick dabs on the pedals.

As the machine came darting at the pupil the instructress, never relaxing her glittering smile, took both feet off the pedals, swung them sharply to the left and leaped off. It was more like the way a cowboy reins up his pony just before he leaps on you, than anything else I had ever seen. The amiable pupil smiled and said it was 'such a nice way to get off.'

'You can do it now if you only try,' said the instructress. 'Ride around the room and try it when you come near me. I'll catch you and not let you fall.' The pupil tried, but she promptly got her skirts tangled with the saddle. Nothing but the policemanlike grip of the instructress saved her from a bad fall. Encouraged by the dazzling smile, the pupil tried again and again, for half an hour. By that time the teacher had so inspired her with confidence that she actually dismounted in safety; but she threw away the wheel so that it might have been smashed if it had not been caught. The two women had a long chat in one corner, illuminated by giggles explanatory and giggles of admiration. The teacher was waving her skirts and the pupil was exclaiming in amazement. Then the pupil went away.

FIRST WOMAN INSTRUCTOR.

'I believe I am the first female instructor on the bicycle,' said the teacher to me. 'The management of this school think that no one but a woman can teach a woman all about mounting and dismounting from a wheel. You know that the success of both operations depends upon the management of the skirts. There are ever so many questions about skirts and saddles that a lady can't ask a man, but which she has no hesitancy in asking a woman teacher. Have you noticed my skirt?'

The instructress seized the handles of a high frame bicycle, such as men ride. She stood with a foot on either side of the rear wheel. Her skirt fell on either side of the wheel. Stepping up on the spur, she rose lightly into the saddle, mounted and rode away, just as a man would go; yet her skirts did not hamper her movements.

'What have you done with your skirt?' I asked as she dismounted.

'It's the very latest thing for women to wear while cycling,' she answered. 'You see, it's divided in front as well as at the back, yet it doesn't bag like the ordinary divided skirt. When I walk it looks like a solid skirt. When I get on the wheel the halves fall aside. Under it I have on a pair of tight-fitting knickerbockers, such as men wear. That prevents any danger of catching on the saddle. Bloomers, you know, are simply out of the question on the wheel. They are so loose and baggy that they are sure to catch on the saddle as one mounts and dismounts. They are really more dangerous than skirts. No woman who respects herself will be seen wearing knickerbockers in the streets.'

'What do you think is the most important thing for a woman to know who rides a wheel?' I asked her.

'How to get off quickly and safely,' she replied. 'Once she masters that, she will never be hurt while cycling.'

GOLD PRODUCTION.

THE summing up of 1894 showed a total production, in round figures of 180,000,000dols., an increase of 23,000,000 dols. over 1893. This yield was about 30,000,000dol. greater than the product of any year when the placer mines of California and Australia were at their maximum. The indications now point to a yield of 200,000,000dols. for the calendar year 1895, another increase of 20,000,000 dols., and an increase of 43,000,000dols. in the annual output in two years, and of 54,000,000dol. in three years. As the annual supply of gold is not used in the year, but is mostly added to the pre-existing sum, it follows that the world's stock has been increased in the three years named by the enormous sum of 537,000,000dol.

The consumption of gold in the arts is undoubtedly increasing generally, although there was a marked diminution of such use in the year 1894, owing to the hard times. The use of gold for purposes of adornment, which is almost its only use except as money, rises and falls according to the prosperity of the nations. It is an article of luxury. These uses in the United States, according to the calculations of the mint, were about 10,000,000dols. in 1893, but fell to 13,000,000dols. in 1894. Very likely the consumption of the present year will equal or exceed that of 1893. On the other hand, the product of the gold mines of the United States, according to the estimate for 1895, will be 46,000,000dols. against 39,500,000dols. in 1894. The South African product is estimated at the same figure as that of the United States, 46,000,000dols., that of Australia at 43,000,000dols., and that of Russia at 29,000,000dols. These four countries produced three-fourths of the world's annual yield.

INTERPROVINCIAL CRICKET.

WELLINGTON V. AUCKLAND.



AUCKLAND TEAM.

[SEE 'OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.'

BACK ROW.—R. Neill, J. A. Kallender, W. T. Wynyard.  
 THIRD ROW.—G. H. Broughton (scorer), D. Hay, G. Mills, E. J. C. Greville (Sec. A.C.A.), C. W. Hemery (umpire).  
 SECOND ROW.—W. Stimson, E. Wright (captain), D. Clayton.  
 FRONT ROW.—F. J. Ohlson, E. J. Cotterill, W. Hawkins.



WEALTH OF NATIONS MINE.

[SEE 'OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.'

1. Outside of the drive.
2. Cross cut on the reef.
3. Entrance to the drive.