

# AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

## Queer Quilts and Peculiar Pillows.

There are fashions in bed-clothes no less than in other kinds of clothing, and an autograph quilt is much sought after by housewives who love to be up-to-date.

Not long ago the Countess Brownlow was the recipient of such a novel present at the hands of the tenants and other inhabitants of the Ashbridge Estate of her husband, in Buckinghamshire.

This notable autograph quilt bore no fewer than twelve hundred names, and it was presented to the Countess in recognition of

### THE KINDLY INTEREST

shown and timely assistance rendered by her on occasions of distress and sickness in the little community. It will doubtless be cherished by her family for many years to come.

Any lady who wished to become the purchaser of such a curious counterpane will be more likely to meet with one at a bazaar than anywhere else. A remarkable autograph quilt was on sale at such a function held at Buckingham some time ago.

It had been made on the co-operative principle—the genuine article natural ly must be. Some two hundred squares of material were sent out to as many statesmen, peers, member of Parliament, and Nonconformist ministers of light and leading.

On these the distinguished personages wrote their signatures in pencil, the letters being afterwards most beautifully embroidered by Mrs Gibbs and Mrs Hull, two prominent promoters of the bazaar. They afterwards had the squares made up into a lovely quilt, their artistic needlework being very much admired. Its worth and quality were testified by the fact that the counterpane sold for £20.

At a hospital bazaar at Darlington, opened by Princess Henry of Battenberg, a little while ago, a much more elaborate

### AUTOGRAPH BED QUILT

was on sale. It was made of white linen worked with gold silk on a gold foundation.

The small squares were intersected by hand-made lace insertion, the whole being surrounded by panels of tulip design. The central square had worked on it the autograph of Princess Henry of Battenberg, surmounted by a coronet.

Each of the other squares contained the actual autographs of four celebrities, the signatures having been first written on the material by them and afterwards worked in in gold. The four corner-pieces were taken up with the Durham and Darlington arms, the date of the bazaar, and the monogram of the hospital for the benefit of which it was held.

Amongst the ninety or so autographs on the quilt were those of Mr Arthur James Balfour, Mr Joseph Chamberlain, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and Winston Churchill (on one square), President Roosevelt, Lord Roberts, Edison, Marconi, Sir Robert Ball, Madame Patti, the Bishops of Durham and Wakefield,

## Care of the Hair.

HINTS TAKEN FROM THE LETTERS OF A LADY-IN-WAITING AT THE COURT OF QUEEN MARIE ANTONETTE.

(By Estelle De la Terre.)

The secret of beautiful hair may be expressed, as in the case of a good complexion, in one word. Cleanliness, absolute and systematic, is essential for the girl who wishes her "crowning glory" to receive its full complement of praise. But here again the word "cleanliness" must embrace a larger area than the space to which we at present confine it.

Lady Warwick, Lord and Lady Zetland, Lord and Lady Barnard, Alfred Austin, Andrew Carnegie, Luke Fildes, R.A., Sir Henry Irving, Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Marie Hall, Sir Frederick Treves, Mrs Patrick Campbell, and the Hon. F. S. Jackson.

A novelty in counterpanes was some time ago on exhibition at a church bazaar in a northern town. It was formed of no fewer than three hundred and sixty-five pieces of patchwork—one for each day of the year. All colours were represented, though in perfect harmony, and, in addition to bearing date, each patch set forth the kind of weather that might be expected on the day indicated.

Thus "wind," "rain," "frost," and so on, appeared over and over again, until the various phases of our resourceful British climate were completely exhausted. This curious quilt was the work of an invalid lady, who must have devoted her whole time to it for many months. It attracted every visitor's attention, and proved the great drawing feature of the bazaar.

In the possession of one of the old families of Europe there is a bed quilt bearing

### A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE

of "Alexander in the tent of Darius." It was the work of that famous painter, Paul Veronese.

Like so many other artists, he was a man of eccentric moods and odd habits. On one occasion he accepted an invitation to spend a few days with a family at their beautiful country residence. While there he insisted on having absolute possession of his room, which he would not allow even a servant to enter.

He actually made his own bed and deposited the sweepings of his room outside the door every morning for the maid to take away. When he left he slipped off without so much as bidding the family good-bye, and certain of the bed clothes were found to be missing.

The eccentric painter was suspected of having stolen them, but, on a careful search being made, they were found rolled up in a corner of the room. On the quilt had been painted the superb picture already mentioned, this being the whimsical fashion in which the great artist had taken it into his head to repay his host for the generous hospitality that had been shown him.

Peculiar pillows—portrait pillows is their correct designation—have been in great favour for some time now. These are

### ADORNED WITH THE FACES

of leading lights of literary, political and other circles, with perhaps quotations from their works or speeches.

From some of these comforting head-rests the face of Tennyson looks up, backed by a couple of appropriate lines from one or other of his poems; Burns, Kipling, Whittier, and others being similarly in evidence.

The average girl shampoos her head once a month—in some cases, alas, once a week, and washes her brushes when she considers that they require it. She brushes her hair night after night for a few seconds, plasters it with grease at odd intervals, or leaves it severely alone, and cries out because she has such ugly tresses, so lank and dull, and unlike her best friend who rejoices in curls and waves. The best friend has been blessed by nature with healthy hair, but unless she understands the method of retaining the beauty of her locks she also one day will add her moan to the general cry, "I have such ugly hair."

Beautiful hair is within the reach of everyone.

The hair has two great enemies that combine for its destruction. One is the present-day method of shampooing, the other is dust. Thousands of girls, night after night, gather the dust of the day on their brush, and the next morning brush the dust back on their hair again. In this way it is no difficult matter to keep a brush clean for a week or longer at the expense of the hair, which is gradually becoming not only a dust but a germ trap.

### FIRST VITAL STEP.

The first, and the most vitally important, step in the cultivation of beautiful hair is to wash the brushes every night. It does not entail much expenditure of time. After brushing the hair at night pour some boiling water in the basin. Add a piece of soda or a teaspoonful of liquid ammonia. Dab the brushes up and down in this for two minutes. Stand them in cold water for five minutes. Shake well and put in a warm place to be dry by the morning. Once a week add a teaspoonful of alum to the rinsing water, which tightens and stiffens the bristles.

It is quite useless on one night to forget or be "too tired" to wash your brushes. The next morning an accumulation of dust will undo six days of patient labour. Perseverance in this method will result in such an enormous improvement in the texture of the hair that in a week's time you will be astonished.

To lay down hard and fast rules for the nightly treatment of the hair is more difficult. The girl who can spare ten minutes every night for brushing her hair will soon realise the wisdom of her self-denial. But ten minutes seem ten hours to many who are hard at work all day. The "hundred system" will prove useful in these cases, as the hair can be brushed one hundred times in three minutes. The following extract is taken from one of my old letters:—

My maid has received instructions to rub the skin of my head with her fingertips, until the scalp is aglow, for 15 minutes nightly. I can recommend this course to thee, my friend, as the blood is in this way brought to the root of the hair, which draws its nourishment from this source.

### BEST METHOD.

I recommend the following method for nightly treatment in the cultivation of beautiful hair: If possible, use two brushes. Loosen the hair. Gently comb out all tangles, and with the tips of the fingers massage the whole scalp for a few minutes. If the hair be dry, which

can be recognised by its harshness when touched and its lack of colour, dip the fingers in the oil of sweet jasmine, and massage as directed; but avoid smearing the oil on the hair itself. If the hair be greasy or sticky, the result of excessive perspiration from a relaxed condition of the scalp, sprinkle the head with lotion of bergamot. You will soon learn to recognise whether your head requires food or tonic. Brush the hair thoroughly, gathering up small strands and allowing the bristles to pass right through them. Do not plait the hair. Night is the time to induce a free circulation of air. Spread the hair out on your pillow when you are in bed. If it be necessary to use curling pins, procure the softest pattern, and avoid screwing them tightly against the head. Never use hot irons. To those whose hair has a tendency to curl naturally, which has been frustrated by the use of artificial means, the above system will result in time in the curling pins being banished from the dressing-table.

### TOO MUCH SHAMPOOING.

The vexed question of shampooing must be approached with caution. The girl who is asked to wash her hair as seldom as possible will be horrified, and consider that all the principles of hygiene are being set at naught. And yet hundreds of cases in which the hair is thin, weak, and "coming out in handfuls," may be traced back to the cause of excessive shampooing. It will be found if the brushes are washed every day the hair will not require to be washed more often than once in six weeks.

When washing the hair use, if possible, rain water. If not, the water may be softened by a little borax. Avoid soda and ammonia, the effects of which are too drying. Beat up the white of an egg to a snow. Add a tablespoonful of soap powder. Whisk all together. After rinsing the hair thoroughly, rub the egg mixture into the scalp. Rinse in several lots of warm water, and lastly apply a cold douche. Do not wring the hair. Gently press out the moisture. Dry with hot towels, but do not go near a fire. If it be summer, go out in the garden. The sun is the finest possible hair restorer. When dry, brush the hair for five minutes. Pour three drops of oil of sweet jasmine on the palm of the hand. Dip the brush in this and gently stroke the hair. This will induce a beautiful gloss without appearing too greasy. To make a good soap powder, collect all the scraps of soap. Dry them until they are brittle. Put them in a cloth and crush with a flat iron to a powder. After the hair is dressed, always smooth it with one of the Japanese silk squares.

## How to Select a Wife.

(By Helen Oldfield.)

Old saws, not the rusty affairs which the "ragged men" ply upon firewood at our back doors, but the sharp-toothed, trenchant blades in the shape of maxims, which philosophers love to draw across the hearts of men, are like unto Damascus swords of the olden time, in that their edges are still keen and cut deeply after centuries of usage. The tough old blades have a temper which outlives time, and their rugged points tear their way through human bosoms as surely now as when they were first forged, in pain and tear, by sad experience. And of them all not one is truer nor sharper than that "Marriage makes or mars a man."

However one may urge that the man who works himself for the sake of a woman must be made of poor timber to start with, and that the man who is truly a man will rise superior to adverse circumstances, whatever those circumstances may be, the fact remains that intimate association must affect even the strongest more or less. A

good pilot will bring an unseaworthy barge safely to its desired haven, whilst a careless steersman will sink a good ship in sight of port.

It is a common saying that men invariably love those women best who make fools of them, and, while like most common sayings, this has an element of truth, it would be more correct to say that a man must love a woman in order to enable her to make a fool of him. All of us know men of mark who unhesitatingly aver that much of their success in life is due to their wives; also, we know others who have carried weight because of an unwise marriage, and, thus handicapped, have failed in the race. However miserable an old bachelor may be, he is by far more happy than a bad husband, or the husband of a bad wife.

"Be sure to marry," wrote a famous general to his son, "but be sure also that you marry the right woman"; advice which may well be ranked with that of the sharper who advertised to furnish the secret of success in all undertakings,