

AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

MAN'S IDEAL WOMAN.

"The Men's Ideal Woman" is the subject of an article by Carrie E. Garrett in the "Woman's Home Companion," who says:—"She is not necessarily a peri, though man is accredited, and justly, with a decided bias in favour of good looks. Helen has always, and ever will, absorb a great many of the perquisites of life. She is the theme of song and story. She gets all the best partners at dances. The mere consciousness of her own loveliness enables her to do and say gracefully a thousand things which a plainer girl would boggle over. She has cakes and ale in plenty, and to spare, but she does not achieve all the substantial prizes of life; and when we consider that to one Helen we have several thousand 'plainer girls,' this seems a merciful dispensation of Providence. Sometimes a quiet little mouse of a girl, apparently making no effort to attract, and considered entirely harmless, will carry off the best matrimonial prize of the season. Whereat numerous ladies will exclaim, 'What in the world did he see in her?' Ah! he did not choose her with his eyes alone. Man has a number of fixed old-fashioned notions about the ideal woman which are quite apart from questions of complexion and dress. She is not an extravagantly peerless creature.

"This vision of his dreams, which is revealed to him through the blue smoke of a good cigar, is first of all—lovable. Now, loveliness is the distilled product of innumerable delightful things cunningly blended. So when one attempts to describe a lovable woman mere language is feeble to do her justice. She is indescribable, and we can only repeat, she is lovable.

"The ideal woman has charm. That is another quality which it is most difficult to dissect and explain. It may only be felt. In the person of an unscrupulous woman it may do deadly mischief, for men do not and cannot resist it. But, happily, goodness and charm are entirely compatible, and dear to the heart of man is the woman who has been gifted with both.

"One thing imperatively demanded in the make-up of the ideal woman is sympathy—that all-divining, all-forgiving quality which makes the whole world akin. Sympathy is one of the prime factors of charm. So is humour. A man is fearfully lonesome when his wife cannot see his jokes. She could hardly offer him a more deadly affront than to laugh in the wrong place at one of his pet stories.

"A man does not picture a completely limp and characterless creature as his soul's ideal, however 'sweet.' Yet the woman as she appears in his dreams is not too clever. It is a pleasure to him to be a little superior to his mate—to be 'looked up to'—and as the true woman desires to 'look up,' it is clear that Nature's arrangements in these matters are not without design.

"The most charming woman of all is she who has the consummate wit to seem to 'look up' when really she stands on a level with the man who loves her, or, perchance, a little above him.

"As woman detests of all things a 'womanish' man, so man abhors with all his soul a manish woman. He may have a jolly time with the type of girl which we call 'masculine,' and which men sometimes describe as a 'good fellow,' but she has not the slightest power to disturb the ideal, which is first, last, and always pure womanly. He regards a 'manish' woman as a grotesque caricature of himself, and esteems her accordingly. He does not desire a duplicate or a parody, but an accessory.

"The ideal woman is religious—has the wise, sweet, old-fashioned notions about right and wrong. A man is quite capable of making merry over his wife's scruples of conscience, but I think he would be rather disappointed if she had no such scruples—if in his worldly way she was guided chiefly by expedience. He may not say many prayers himself, but he likes to know that his children pray at their mother's knee. Perhaps he sometimes reflects that the nightly petition from innocent lips, 'God bless father,' may not be quite empty of meaning.

"The sober truth is that, while men

may seek diversion with the more showy, flippant type of girl, and are often caught by mere glitter, they have an ideal far, far above this cheap type which is imperishable."

OUR OLD BOOTS: WHAT BECOMES OF THEM?

Probably a large number of people do not trouble their heads in the least as to what becomes of their cast-off foot gear, but I daresay it may interest them to know that it is not wasted, even if thrown into the dust bin.

From that receptacle it is rescued by the scavengers, and a very large amount of the old leather is eventually ground up into a fine pulp (after having first been carefully soaked to remove all dirt), pressed into large sheets and then used for making the tops of carriages, or for the cheaper sort of leather binding for books, or for the embossed wall papers which are now so fashionable, and which have such a handsome appearance.

This particular form of decoration is nothing but a thick paper covered with a thin layer of the pressed leather pulp, on which are handsome designs in bronze, old gold, and other expensive colours.

Many of the better shoes are sold to dealers, who make the refurbishing up of old foot gear a most profitable business. The best parts of two pairs of boots under their hands will make one decent pair, which will be much appreciated by a poor customer who cannot afford to buy a good new pair. Or two old boots are made to resemble one another and make a pair, and, of course, as the dealer has paid very little for them he can afford to sell them again, even the best of them, for a less price than a commoner pair of quite new boots.

A certain citizen of Newcastle was aware of the value of properly repaired old boots and shoes, and solely from charitable motives he started a depot for old boots, which has proved a great benefit to the deserving poor, many of whom without it would probably have gone barefoot.

The work was begun by circulars being issued to the householders asking for gifts of old boots and shoes, and offering to send a collector for them to all who would give notice at the depot that they have such "rubbish" to dispose of.

This appeal met with a ready response, and care being taken that the gifts should only fall into the hands of those who needed charity, poverty has been relieved, and far better than if the boots and shoes had not been first repaired at the depot of the charitable middleman.

Could not philanthropic folk do the same kind of thing elsewhere? Not only boots and shoes, but all sorts of clothing would find a ready sale among the poor if they were mended neatly, whereas worn clothing, if given away unmended usually soon finds its way to an old clothes shop, and seldom indeed is the sum realised by its sale of any great value to the recipient.

BASSINETS FOR BABY AND THEIR USE.

Where baby shall sleep from the very first day of his appearance is a subject upon which far too little thought is usually expended. The mother usually either lays him on the bed next to her or else upon a pillow which rests upon two chairs beside the mother's bed.

Both of these places for baby's sleep are objectionable. In the first place, no baby should lie under the same covers as the mother. Not only is she apt to turn upon him, and thus injure him unwittingly, but if he be a nursing baby he will soon acquire the habit of demanding food at frequent intervals the night through. The pillow is as bad. It is altogether too soft to support the weak little back, and it does not admit of baby's being tucked in as snugly as is desirable when he first appears. Some mothers lay their child in the carriage. This would do at a pinch for awhile, if it contained a mattress laid upon a pillow, in order to raise it high enough to give the baby air, but he should not be put in the bottom of the carriage or upon a pillow alone. Some mothers use the

crib right from the beginning. This, of course, is all right, but it is not so desirable at the outset, as it is a trifle too large to allow of the close tucking spoken of above, and as it gives no sort of support to the weak frame.

Nothing can be found that is better for all round purposes than the cane bassinet. This comes in several sizes, is very light, and rests upon a small stand, from which it can be lifted at will. It has the advantage that it is light and portable, and therefore convenient to carry the baby about in without disturbing him.

For the mother who feels that she cannot afford to pay £1 10/ or £2 for a bassinet, the clothesbasket is recommended as an excellent substitute. But care should be had in selecting it to get one with sides not too high, and, if possible, with sides of very open weaving. If this is not practicable, the mattress can be raised high in the basket, resting upon a pillow which lifts it almost to the top.

But whether the mother elects to have the crib at once or chooses the bassinet, the arrangement of the bed should be the same in either case. First of all, there must be a mattress of soft curled hair. This is essential. Pillows are not fit for baby to lie upon. His back needs a firm support. He should not lie upon one in the carriage when later on he is taken out. A small mattress can be fitted to the carriage, and sometimes the one for the bassinet will fit the carriage.

Over the mattress should be laid a piece of rubber cloth to cover its entire width, and about eighteen inches in length. This is not necessary during the first few months of life. It is only when baby is old enough to roll and move about freely in his crib that this becomes desirable. Over the mattress, then, is laid the sheet of muslin or linen, upon which rests a small, thin

pillow of feathers or hair, preferably the latter, covered with a linen case. Over the sheet, in the centre, just beneath the pillow, is placed the pad. This is made of the very best quality of white Turkish towelling, and about twelve inches square. It is fastened with buttons or tapes. Into it is slipped a doubled piece of rubber cloth. This will prevent moisture penetrating to the sheet. Now come the second sheet and the crib blankets. These may be the knitted blankets of cream white yarn, the softly quilted cheese cloth blankets, with carded wool or cotton between, or, for the more fortunate baby, the comfortable of down. One of the comfortable or a pair of blankets ought to be enough, unless the temperature be very low.

Have everything about the bed spotless. Change the bedding morning and evening. Have plenty of pads. Hang the night bedding in the sun to air each day. Never put a thing back upon the bed if it becomes the least bit soiled. Sponge the rubber cloth off every day with a two per cent. solution of carbolic acid.

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