The One-Sleeve Gown

The evening gown with one sleeve has been appearing at dinners and balls and at the opera in Paris from time to time. It made its first startling appearance in New York with Miss Fannie Johnson in her Spanish dance in "Florodora." The costume of black satin embroidered in vari-coloured chenille was charming, but somehow it suggested a vision of a mishap in the dressing-room, and the audience was unkind enough to titter. The next morning the gown was sent back with a plaintive little note saying that the owner simply could not "go on" again without the customary number of sleeves. Miss Edna Wallace Hopper also tried to introduce the novelty, and, like Miss Johnson, grew faint-hearted after one night of "laughs in the wrong place" by an unappreciative audience. But Miss Jessie Milward, appearing in New York in "Mrs Dane's Defence," continued to wear one arm covered and the other arm bare. The one-sleeved gown, as Miss Milward wears it, is described as being really both becoming and effective. The gown is of green embroidered velvet, and is worn in an after-dinner scene in the fourth act. The left arm is clad in a tight sleeve reaching to the elbow. The gown is fastened over the right shoulder by a narrow green velvet strap, and after that there is nothing but a long, graceful line of white arm. There is a first shock at the irregularity of the design, but a second glance accustoms the eye to the strangeness of the sight, and soon women's voices are heard saying, "How pretty!" Will women off the stage wear the one-sleeved gown? The left arm is always the one that is clad. In fashion, as there should be in everything, there is a reason for this freak. The excuse for covering the left arm is because it is generally less developed than the right.

The Newest Charms.

The very newest is the spent bullet threaded through a little gold chain, and as the virtue of every charm lies in the fact of its being worn constantly, this South African relic is intended to hang from a man's watch-guard or a woman's bangle. It is a grim little possession, look at it how you will; but it is said to ward off evil, and so, expensive though it is, it is being largely ordered. New luck-bringers are constantly being introduced to the purchasing public. Whence comes their character as mascots? Happily no one puts their pretensions to the test of examination. A craze just now is for cat charms, and as well as for the lucky robin and the ladybird. It is essential that the cat worn has a very long, thin neck, and is twisted into a grotesque position. It looks as if Grimalkin, to be potent, ought not to present so commonplace an appearance as the ordinary hearthrug pussy-cat. The Prince of Wales gave Lady Randolph Churchill a lucky pig for a wedding present upon her second marriage, set with precious stones, an Irish mascot that never loses its admirers.

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When the Chicks are Fretful.

There are many causes of fretfulness. But I propose to deal briefly with one or two of the most common, which may be remedied by every observant mother or nurse. Take, for instance, the pale, listless child who almost invariably wakes up cross in the morning, and we often find that he has been allowed to sit up too late at night, or that he has been sleeping in a close, badly-ventilated bedroom. Perhaps the nursery windows have been left open all day, but carefully shut at night, for fear of draughts to its occupants. Air must be admitted fresh from the outside, and not by the bedroom door, which probably means a continuous entrance of more or less exhausted air from the house.

To avoid draughts don't open a window at the bottom, but always at the top, and have one or two cheap screens to put round the bed.

Pure air contains a large amount of oxygen, which we breathe in at every inspiration; the expired air—i.e., that which we breathe out at every expiration, contains carbonic acid gas. Now, if we consider the fact of oxygen being a life-giving element and carbonic acid gas a poisonous one, also that with no ventilation there is no escape for it, we can understand how the poisonous air is accumulating during the night, with the inevitable result of being re-breathed into the lungs. The consequence of which is heavy, unrefreshing sleep, anæmia, and disorders of digestion. Small wonder, then, that the child wakes up in a fretful mood.

Late hours, of course, mean insufficient sleep for a growing child.

Next we may consider the question of an unsuitable diet. Young children require very little meat indeed. Farinaceous foods are the best between the ages of six months and ten years. After that age the same as for a grown-up person.

Tea and coffee should be excluded, and warm, sweetened milk given instead.

Too much animal food makes children peevish. Then, again, it is important that a sufficient time be taken over the meals; nothing is so creative of digestive disturbances as eating too hurriedly. And it goes without saying that a badly nourished child is nearly always irritable.

The presence of worms in the intestines is another cause of bad temper. The symptoms are fidgetiness, dissatisfaction after food, picking of the nose and rubbing of the eyes, unusual redness of the tongue and pains in the stomach. There are other signs of this troublesome disorder, but the foregoing may be considered a sufficient guide to the mother or nurse, and should be communicated to the family doctor. Don't take upon yourselves the responsibility of trying to get rid of them with strong aperient medicines.

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The Queen's Curious Engagement Ring.

A ring worn on the finger of Queen Alexandra, which was given by King Edward to his bride at the time of his marriage, contains the word "Bertie" worked in six kinds of jewels, each gem beginning with the requisite letter for forming the word—beryl, emerald, ruby, turquoise, jacinth, and emerald. The Duke of Connaught always wears a ring with "Marguerite" worked across it in pearls, while the Duchess displays a similar circlet containing the word "Arthur." All the Royal family adopt the fashion of wearing a wedding-ring on the third finger of the right hand during the engagement, and they transfer it to the left hand on the marriage day.