

The Veil Dance v. the Cake Walk.

The charm of the veil dance—la danse du voile—has captivated society in Paris, and lovers of all that is truly beautiful and refined in the art of Terpsichore are beginning to rejoice and take heart again. For a time it almost seemed as though grace and daintiness had been banished for ever from the land of the stately minuet and lighted tripped gavotte, for the negro cake-walk had invaded France, and its striking originality and fun had created a furore among a people to whom above all others, anything novel appeals, and who are apt to welcome a new attraction with open arms, regardless of the fine points of its merits.

On the stage first, and then in the drawing-rooms of the smartest circles of Paris, the dance born beneath the moon-beams and around the pine fires of the Southern plantations of America, with its bizarre costumes and grotesque antics, held supreme sway, to the complete abandonment of all others. In vain lovers of the aesthetic mourned and pointed out that expertness in the kek-yok" consisted in not only disregarding, but reversing every known law of grace and beauty; in vain the wits of a land of wits heaped fun upon it; not only Paris, but all France, seemed given over to the rampant spirit of the darky pastime, and negro melodies floated from drawing-rooms wherever a crowd of young people were gathered for a merry-making, says the New York "Herald."

Surely, if slowly, the reaction came. The first novelty worn off, denunciations of the "danse des negres," as strong as the former praise, had been enthusiastic, began to be heard on all sides; until to-day there is a fashionable campaign against cake-walking throughout Paris, and the veil dance, with its dainty witchery, is being substituted in its stead. It was just as the star of the cake-walk began to set that Mile. Nicloux, of the opera ballet, introduced the veil dance to enraptured audiences, its charms being doubly enhanced by contrast with the ungainliness of its predecessor.

It was then that Parisians seemed to realise how lacking in loveliness the cake-walk really was. The veil dance was greeted with a storm of ecstacy which worthily marked the restoration of beauty to her own, and since then the triumph of this new idol of the hour has been uninterrupted. From the stage it has spread into the ballroom, and lovely women who a few months before prided themselves on their ability to sway their shoulders and "cut the pigeon wing" in true darky fashion, now vie with each other in grace and poetry of motion, and form "angel wings" with snowy, floating draperies.

"Without doubt," one enthusiastic admirer of this new dance remarks, "veil dancers will soon daintily glide and hit

in every home in France where formerly the cake-walkers stamped."

The veil dance is the antithesis of the cake-walk. It is everything in beauty of step and motion, in graceful poise and moving figures bewildering in their loveliness, that the other is in grotesquery. The veil dancers float and glide about with light, negulous wings attached to the sides or back of the corsage. These they wave up and down as they daintily advance or recede with light, tripping steps or manipulate so as to form beautiful and varied figures in wing and cloud effects.

As in the cake-walk, much of the merit of the dance depends on the cleverness and originality of the dancer, who may make it stately with statuesque poses or romping and coquettish, as will best suit her personality and display her charms. In the ballroom the veil dancer's wings are worn with the regular evening gown, being fashioned of colour, material and design to harmonise with the costume for which they are intended.

As much rivalry exists among the dancers as to the beauty and uniqueness of the wings worn as over the grace and variety of the steps and figures displayed. The wings may be of silk, with long ends, which are waved and handled like scarfs; but those of tulle, organdie, or sheer muslin are generally preferred, as they give a delightful transparent, gauzy effect and are more novel, if not so easy to manipulate prettily. Often the wings are bespangled with gold or silver, so that they scintillate and flash as the dancer moves back and forth waving them beneath the lights, producing an appearance of indescribable brilliancy.

So far the veil dance has not been seen in this country, but without doubt it is destined to become popular in smart society here next season, where it will appeal to the originality and cleverness of the colonial girl, and will gain added charm from her interpretation.

Useful Health Hints.

ON SLEEPING ALONE.

Eight hours of the 24 are spent in bed. One-third of existence. Twenty years from out an average lifetime of 60!

We breathe about eighteen times a minutes. Think of the breaths we draw when asleep, unconscious of our surroundings.

Think of the conditions under which we draw them, and ask: "What is the quality of the air these people are breathing during the helpless hours of sleep?"

Has provision been made for the ingress of the fresh air and egress of the foul?

Do the beds stand well out from the wall, so that one sleeper does not constantly inhale his own emanations?

People would be far healthier if they slept alone always. Never yet was bed

built big enough for two people to get all the pure air they require.

People who are intelligent and fastidious sleep alone.

CHILBLAINS.

These may often be prevented by rubbing the feet and hands with camphorated spirit, mixed with a little vinegar, or a little spirit rubbed on every night is sometimes sufficient to prevent their appearance. If they are bad, however, great relief may be obtained by applying a mixture composed of loz of spirits of wine and ten drops of tincture of arnica. Turpentine, too, is very good, and although the skin will peel off, this simple remedy is often as effectual as the more costly mixtures.

FOR NEURALGIA IN THE FACE.

For pains in the face and teeth take two teaspoonfuls of flour and the same quantity of grated ginger, and mix them well together with sufficient spirits to make a thin paste. Spread this on a linen rag and apply it to the part affected on going to bed, wrapping a piece of flannel over all, and it will effect a cure.

BRONCHITIS MIXTURE.

Three ounces of linseed, four ounces of sugar candy, two lemons cut in thin slices, two pints of cold water, six cloves, put all into an enamelled saucepan. After it boils, let it simmer an hour, then strain and add two wineglassfuls of whisky. Dose: Two tablespoonfuls every four hours.

FOR A BEE-STING.

One of the best possible remedies for a bee-sting is the juice of roasted onion. Roast the onion in the ashes, if possible, and squeeze the juice out, hot as can be borne, on the affected part. This simple remedy, applied in time, has been known to save life.

RHEUMATISM.

For rheumatic pains in the hands and wrists try rubbing the joints well every night at bedtime with paraffin. This will greatly relieve the sufferer.

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Embroidered Gloves.

They say that embroidered gloves are coming into vogue for summer wear, but it is doubtful whether they will ever become strictly popular. Great efforts have been made to introduce them before, but, strangely enough, whereas no extravagances are too great for us to adopt in the matter of hats and gowns, we "hasten" very "slowly" when it comes to any radical change to gloves and shoes. In Paris the fancy for red shoes and stockings seems just now to show signs of becoming a vogue; but what Paris may do in the matter of footwear is by no means always advisable for us. With a black robe d'interieur red shoes are piquant and charming, no doubt! but out of doors they look bizarre, and bring the feet too much into prominence. But there are some of the prettiest shoes in soft shades of satin and silk designed to wear with the evening dresses; they are embroidered in silks to match the gowns, and for these one can have nothing but praise. Naturally the amount of patient labour they represent when carried out by hand makes them a rather expensive item which would be beyond the means of many of us.—"London Daily Express."

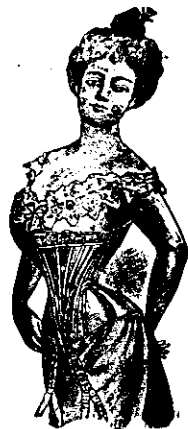
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