

Notable Women

The Feminine Sex Still Talks, but Also Acts

That original and independent thinker, Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, has recently sailed for Europe on a lecture tour. One of Mrs. Gilman's odd ideas is that not every mother is wise enough or has time enough to bring up her children in the best manner. For this reason Mrs. Gilman thinks it would be in the interest of the public nursery and homes were provided where mothers might have their little ones taken care of in the most scientific way. The public nursery should be provided over by trained nurses



CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN. and sanitarians and gynecologists, who would give the infants loving, hygienic care. The pursuit of the children's mountain may have access to them at any time. When Mrs. Gilman promulgated her plan she was met by a shower of imprecations. It was said she would break up the family, that foundation stone itself of civilization. Now, however, comes a more looking toward putting into practice the very suggestions of Mrs. Gilman. Moreover, it emanates from the inner circle of London social high life. In that city has been started a children's hotel and nursery, where the mother's little ones may be taken care of permanently and at the top notch of style and tenderness, the parents paying liberally for the same. In London at least there must have been a demand for such an infant hostelry or it would not have been established.

Alice Moore McComas.

That plucky and untiring newspaper woman, Mrs. Alice Moore McComas, is in faraway South Africa on a tour with her gifted daughter, Carroll—Carroll the Whistler. The young lady, who whistles like a mocking bird, is likewise an actress and a trained dancer. An advantageous offer to exhibit her accomplishments on the stage in Europe was made to Miss Carroll, whereupon Mrs. McComas gave up for the time her own aims to accompany her daughter on the tour. It has extended beyond what was at first expected, and Carroll and her mother are now in South Africa, Carroll meeting with great success. A note was recently received by a friend from Mrs. McComas in Johannesburg. She writes of South Africa: "This is a wonderful country, with a great future. The people are of the right sort, and the country is rich in resources."

SPRING COLORS AND FABRICS

New Weaves in Diaphanous Goods and Ribbons to Trim Them. Every season the wash goods take as some new beauty in finish or design until it seems that there is nothing further to be desired. The new weaves of all these fabrics gives them the glossy finish of silk and makes them softer to the touch and less difficult to drape. The greatest difficulty in cotton goods heretofore has been that they were either stiff and unwieldy or else too soft and flabby after one or two days' wear. Now we can choose between the thick linen finish of the kinds of cotton goods designed for waists and the material used for fall dresses only. The first sort is designed to make rather heavy and close and makes admirable waists for everyday wear, while the others are admirably adapted to make one look pretty. Among the heavier goods are the dark blue and red chevrons, and these are all mercerized, so that they have the rich luster of silk. The colors are very dainty and artistic, running mostly in grays, dull reds, blues of various tints, lilacs and heliotropes. In fact, these colors seem to be in evidence in every line of goods, completely displacing the browns of the past season. A few tans are seen and a few delicate biscuit shades, but the colors mentioned are those of the spring of 1905. In addition to them are seen champagne, old rose, cardinal, green in several shades, navy, black, cream and wild rose pink.

Diaphanous Tulle.

The new tulle is almost as diaphanous as the old ones, but since they are intended for summer gowns nothing could be more dainty. They are printed in delicate colors and are to be made up with many ruffles or flounces and trimmed with much lace and abundance of ribbon. The sets are very new, and being produced in so many beautiful colors, they will become very popular. In strict color they were very

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fashionable some ten years ago, but now they are infinitely handsomer. They are strong too. In the colonies there are over twenty-five beautiful colors and also black and white, and they may be made into pretty gowns with the aid of lace and ribbon. Ribbon will be much more in demand this season



Dainty Waists.

than for some time. Some of the cotton goods have borders so arranged that they can be used for ruffles or flounces, as may be preferred. Silk dotted muslin are very pretty and are shown in many varieties so far as color and size of dots are concerned. Dainty, with its delicate floral fancies strewn over the cord; satin liberty, also with dots and different floral designs, and new and exceptionally pretty organizes are among the sum-

mer goods which are now being eagerly bought for construction during Lent. So are the excellent shirtings, linen suitings in dull finish and in colors and white. There are many embroidered millinery trims to choose from, all so fine and delicate that one would almost shrink from cutting such fabrics. I notice, too, that there is a large range of new designs in all wool challies. This is a beautiful material, soft and fine, and a favorite with women of refined tastes for home wear, though it is quite suitable for the street in its season. Path dots are seen in fully half of these.

The Vogue of Ribbons.

Ribbons are to have a greater prominence than they have had for some time, and the newest of them are truly beautiful. Noire bas, ribbon is seven inches wide and comes in blue, pink, turquoise, blue, cardinal, navy, white, cream and black. There are two shades of each color. There is a crepe de chine ribbon seven inches wide, in all the colors, very soft and desirable, and a fallotulle, five and a half inches wide. In all the shades, besides the novelties in shadow, pompadour fancy, striped, polka dotted and plaid effects. Plaids of all sorts are seen. There are many dress goods of plaid of various kinds, but mostly those of the quietest colors. Several designs of cotton goods are plaid and mercerized so that they resemble silk. The tartan plaids are made into shirt waists, with the fold down the front made bias, or perhaps the waist itself is cut bias. Some of the plaids are scarcely more than checks, but the colorings are in good taste, being white and red, black and russet, brown, pink, pale blue, navy blue and tan and heliotrope. Shirt waists are of every color, but the white ones are certainly the most pleasing, especially the linen ones, which have a distinction and are made in tailor style, with straps, plaids or drawn work or a little fine embroidery done by hand. Some very fancy waists are made of valencienes all overs, and others of imitation chuney are very dressy. In spite of the fact that prospects are otherwise it seems that everything is made up into separate waists.

OLIVE HARPER.

BAN ON "NOW I LAY ME"

Chicago Women Declare Childhood Prayer Out of Date.

THE IDEA OF DEATH DISAPPROVED

Members of the West End Mothers' Council Offered Substitutes in Verse, as "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep," Taken in Part From the Psalmist. Why Philadelphia Women Favor the Old Prayer. The prayers which millions of childish lips have murmured for generations, "Now I lay me down to sleep," was recently relegated, says the Chicago Tribune, to the past by the West End Mothers' council of Chicago. The council also decided adversely to the protests of children who are compelled Sunday after Sunday to dangle their legs and "be quiet" during church service.

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SOLD AND RECOMMENDED BY

It was after the addresses of Mrs. Ida Evans Haines and Mrs. Edmund A. Osburn on the subject, "What More Can We Do For the Religious Life of Our Children and Young People?" that the subject of prayer was mentioned. Mrs. Edgar A. Hall, president, said:

"The last lines of the old prayer are horrible:
"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep,
And if I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take."
The idea of death during the night is horrible, and I never use it."
There was a general buzz of approval of Mrs. Hall's views.

Mrs. Hall had a substitute to offer. It was listened to with many nods of approval. Here it is:
Father, we thank thee for the night
And for the pleasant morning light,
For rest and food and loving care
And all that makes the world so fair.
"Beautiful," some one murmured.
"So comforting."

Then others offered substitutes for the time honored "Now I lay me." Mrs. Robert W. Smith, corresponding secretary of the club, also hostess at the meeting, submitted this:
Jesus, tender shepherd, hear me,
Bless thy dear lamb tonight;
Through the darkness be thou near me,
Keep me safe till morning light.

It was evident that most of the members had relegated the "Now I lay me," and a third substitute was accepted by the club before the topic was dismissed. This, in part quoted from the Psalmist, was offered by Mrs. Ida Evans Haines as follows:
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes and I will keep it unto the end."
Then an anxious mother asked the advice of the club members as to insisting on children going to church whether they want to or not.
"Every Sunday my ten-year-old son begs to be let off. He has attended Sunday school and is no doubt tired. Last Sunday I received two notes saying, 'Mamma, I will not go to church next Sunday.'" The others responded with their experiences. "The verdict was that as parents attended the children ought to. There were various remedies offered for the failure on the part of children to yearn for church service. They were as follows:
"Give them pencil and paper and have them make notes on the sermon."
"Have them run around the block at close of Sunday school before church service begins."
"Get a stool for their feet so they will not dangle."
"Work on their wish to be grown up, and show them it is an evidence of maturity to attend church and not get wriggly before the minister finishes."
"Take them instead of sending them."

Philadelphia mothers will not indorse the belief of their Chicago sisters that the old prayer recited "Now I lay me down to sleep," which has been taught to children from time immemorial, is out of date, says the Philadelphia Press. A number of women who attended the meeting at the Civic club in Philadelphia the other afternoon discussed the action of the West End Mothers' council of Chicago, and not one word of commendation was heard for the proposed changes.
"I'd as soon hear them declare that the Bible is out of date as the prayer which I was taught to lip before I knew its meaning," said Mrs. Ellen Withrow. "The substitutes they offer in its place can never make up for the prayer that will always be used by Christian mothers."
Mrs. Howard Miller thinks the Chicago women are just a little too far advanced. She said:
"I suppose they would have special poems written for each year of childhood. For my part, I think that when a child is old enough to understand the meaning of prayer it should be taught to form its own petitions and not be subjected to any special verses."

Transcontinental Travel.
This year promises to be the record year for travel into California from the east, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It is estimated by the officials of the railroads interested in this movement that 50,000 tourists have visited California this winter. The total revenue of the railroads transporting the visitors is estimated at not less than \$2,000,000. The conclusion is drawn that California will derive the sum of \$12,000,000 from the season's tourist business.

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