NEGLIGE NECKLACES.

Beautifully Constructed Chains and Ornaments That Are a Novelty of the Season.

Among the dainty and fascinating belongings of the modern woman is usually found one of the new neglige necklaces. So wondrously attractive are they in all their variations that it would be impossible to imagine anything lovelier or more becoming, says the New York Herald.

Surely it has ceased to be a fashion to envelop one's neck in heavy, massive ornaments, regardless of the fact that in almost every case they are unbecoming and look ugly. Still, if fashion should so dictate, the ardent follower of modes would cordicle her throat with these ostentatious ornaments.

Chic neglige necklaces are so fairy-like and dainty in their construction that admiration results from an inspection of them.

Beautiful gems of priceless value may be employed in the designs, and the arrangement is made in such a way as to avoid all apparent show.

Parisian diamonds make up exceedingly well in these fashionable chains when the matter of cost enters into the consideration, and if set in either gun metal or solid silver mountings they are scarcely discernible from costlier ones. Besides, they are within the reach of the average woman.

The truly elegant necklaces are made of platinum, with fine chains to encircle the neck, and hang down in two slender, pendent ends that are finished with pearl or colored jewel drops, mounted in diamonds or rhinestones.

When the chain is clasped together in the front with a charming ornament of some fanciful or characteristic style a happy result is obtained, and if a beautiful arrangement of a rococo pattern is selected, with a small brilliant placed at each crossing of the slender bands and around the irregularly shaped outer edge, an exquisite touch is given.

Another design of a little more significance is a true lover's knot, completely studded with diamonds or turquoise, and the platinum chain is finished at the bottom in two tiny bows to correspond, each holding a single mounted pearl.

A novelty of service to the woman with a throat that has lost its roundness, and who is anxious to hide this unavoidable defect, is a piece of tulle or cobwebby lace threaded through Parisian diamond slides.

TO ACQUIRE REPOSE.

The Uneasy Habit is Hard to Control, But with Perseverance It Can Be Done.

"Repose is about the hardest thing in the world to get," said a pretty girl, who, according to the Brooklyn Eagle, is distinguished for grace and calm manners. "It means the quality of resting, and to save my life I could not acquire it at first. I twitched with my fingers and I fiddled with my thumbs. I fitched and I jerked. I coughed and I moved my head. Often my neck sawed uneasily, like a horse's head in a collar that is too tight for him.

"Well, to begin at the end of the story, I got repose by trying the mind cure upon my nerves. I forced my hands to lie still. I would lay them in my lap, and then I would actually sit and watch them, to see if they moved. I usually found the fingers working. Even kept tabs on them when I was trying to read, to be sure they were not picking something to pieces, and they usually were.

"This uneasy habit is all a question of control. But, like most questions of self control, it is not settled as easily as you may suppose. You must relax; that is the first rule. And you must keep relaxed; that is the second rule. The others are all expressed in the word 'relax.'

"There is a great deal of talk about using up your nervous force. It goes away somewhere, and you do not have it any more. Well, a great deal of your nervous force escapes through your finger tips while they are idly working and the sooner you learn to let them lie the sooner will the nervous force be preserved.

"Nothing makes wrinkles sooner than the habit of moving and jerking; and nothing in the word will destroy beauty as quickly as the habit of coughing and wheezing. More people do these things from nervousness than do them from colds. And the woman with the hacking cough should begin upon it at once, resolved to stop it forever.

"To cure the twitching habit exercise with the dumb bells until your arms are tired. Then throw them into your lap and let them lie there. Do not fidget with the fingers, do not twirl a string of beads, do not fuss with anything, but let the hands rest. Do this and you have taken your first lesson in repose of manner, that quality for which the southern beauties are famous."

Crabs a la Creole.

Cut three pieces of bacon in small pieces, put them in the hot dish, add two cupfuls of crab meat cut into dice, then one green pepper denuded of its interior and chopped fine, one cupful of tomatoes, pulp and juice, and when boiling add one cupful of fresh mushrooms (the canned ones are a makeshift), cut into small pieces, cook for a few moments, then serve in tiny nappies or stewpans. The latter are the most popular.—Good Housekeeping.

Grape Nectar.

Add to one quart of pure grape juice, one-half teaspoonful clove extract, juice of one lemon; freeze as for ice; then stir in the stiffly beaten whites of two eggs; pack in a border mould; cover with buttered paper; place cover on securely and pack in ice and salt for two hours. When serving fill the center with little cakes, place a bunch of grapes on top and one at the side. Unmould the mousse on to a lace paper napkin.—What To Eat.

Soot for Plants.

Soot water is a good fertilizer for house plants.

KITCHENS AND CHARACTER.

Good and Bad Housekeeping is Shown by the Looks of the Cooking Room.

I am a grocer's delivery boy. Not quite so well dressed as the postman, but I know what is inside of what I deliver and he don't, says What-to-Eat. Moreover, he goes to the front door only, while I not only go to the back door, but have the entree, so to speak, of the kitchen. There's the place to see good housekeeping and—bad housekeeping. Why, I can tell the character of a family from the looks of the kitchen. Of course, where servants are kept, every kitchen ought to be clean and neat—only they are not always. But I like best to deliver were there are no servants.

There's Mrs. Martin—always seems to be in a stew, and I can hardly find a place to put a basket of bottles. That, I guess, is the musiest kitchen I go into, and the little Martin kids look like their mother's kitchen. Next door live the Sperrys, and what a difference! I never saw that kitchen untidy. Mrs. Sperry is a sweet, cheerful little woman with some pleasant words always, and two of the sweetest little girls, who seem as healthy and happy as they are clean and neat. Then, on the next block are the Lees. They are neat, too, and, though I don't expect it, still they often offer me something—a glass of cool lemonade, or a hot fine cake, or a sandwich. Why, I remember one stormy night last winter Mr. Lee insisted on my coming in and having a hot cup of coffee and a plate of pudding. I guess next day there was an extra package left among the Lee's groceries. They have no children, but Mr. Lee shows the kind, generous influence of his wife, and whenever I catch him at home I'm sure of a good cigar.

Then there is the Hart kitchen. It's positively filthy, and they have a servant, too. She's always kicking about something; as if she owned the place. I never see Mrs. Hart. She's probably too good to see the groceryman, but I hear her storming around upstairs and yelling at Maggie and the children. I get out of that place as quick as I can. The Lockwood's is another place where I like to deliver. They don't have much, but what they do have is the best, and their kitchen is as neat as wax.

I suppose the iceman could tell you more than I can about refrigerators, but I see the inside of a good many, and they are just like the kitchens. There are some that really ought to be reported in the health department, and then there are others that smell and look as sweet as a clean baby's cheek.

Speaking of babies and children, they are just like the kitchens every time. Dirty kitchen—cross baby, clean kitchen—good baby. They always go together, you may depend on it. I like children, too; have three at home, and there's a good 100 on my route who know me. Some of them get my bundles open before I can lay them on the tables. Some are as polite as their gentle mothers. I ain't looking for little angels, neither do I want to run up against a lot of rat terriers. Just a happy, healthy, hearty kid suits me.

SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.

Man Looking for a Room Who Was Too Easily Suited to Be Desirable.

"It's rather small," said the landlady of the boarding house, relates Elliott Flower in the Brooklyn Eagle.

"Quite large enough," replied the man who was looking for a room.

The landlady looked surprised.

"There's no running water," she said.

"Couldn't expect it under the circumstances."

"If you want hot water you'll have to bring it up from the kitchen yourself."

"Of course."

"There's no furance heat, either."

"Naturally not in a little hall bedroom."

"You'll have to buy your own coal, but we furnish a small stove."

"That's really very generous of you."

"I won't put a carpet you'll have to get one yourself."

"I would expect to."

"We ask five dollars a week for the room."

"Very reasonable."

"Payable in advance."

"I'll pay now."

"I suppose it's not what you've been accustomed to."

"It's better than I've been accustomed to."

"I suppose there's a woman in the next block who'll give you more for less money."

"I haven't looked."

"On second thought," said the landlady decisively, "I won't rent to you on any terms."

"Why not?"

"I'm running a boarding house for human beings, and I can't take in an angel or a saint direct from Heaven without making the other boarders feel uncomfortable, not to mention the worry it would be to me."

To Disguise.

Sharpe—Every one on the car knew they were on their wedding trip.

Wheaton—Plenty of rice thrown, I suppose?

"Yes; and, not satisfied with that, they called for rice pudding in the dining car."—Chicago Daily News.

Appetizing Sandwich.

An appetizing filling for sandwiches is made by mixing equal parts of grated Swiss cheese and chopped English walnut meats with sufficient softened butter to form a paste. Season with salt and cayenne as needed.—Good Housekeeping.

To Remove Putty.

A hot iron removes putty from glass without any injury to the window frame.

Don't Use Soap.

Soap should never be used for washing pudding cloths.

RADIUM AND TRANSMUTATION:

Interesting Speculations on the Possible Future Values of the Nobler Metals of the Earth.

Radium still occupies the premier position as regards research and attention by scientific men. And no wonder need be expressed that such is the case, says the London Lancet, considering that as its properties are studied fresh revelations of a most remarkable kind are made. These revelations will be received with joy by those who cherish the view that the elements, in spite of their diversities of character, are, after all, but transmutations of one stuff. The hypothesis is attractive and several important and modern lines of research have been directed toward raising it to the dignity of theory if not to ascertained fact. In this connection Sir William Crookes' investigations on radiant matter rank first. By his brilliant researches he was at length able to say: "We have actually touched the borderland where matter and force seem to merge in one another." Then came the recognition of radiant matter as electrons.

In the meantime that wonderful property of certain elements—radio-activity—was being very carefully investigated, until at last perseverance and skill were rewarded in the discovery of that mysterious element now known as radium. The discovery of the X-rays was a great stimulus to this path of research. Apparently remote, however, from the study of radiant phenomena was the discovery of argon in the atmosphere which in its turn led to the discovery of helium. As a matter of fact, the most remarkable property of radium would probably have escaped observation had not helium been discovered and its properties made known. The energy manifested by radium is not due to radium at all, but to the radio-active emanation which it produces from itself, and these emanations would appear to be inert gases, perhaps argon or members of the argon group.

The fact that helium was found in minerals containing uranium suggested that helium might be connected in some way with radio-activity. Eventually Sir William Ramsay and Frederic Soddy showed that though the fresh emanations from radium did not exhibit the spectrum of helium, yet as the radio-activity dies down helium is produced a small but in ever-increasing quantities. Helium would thus appear to have been born, so to speak, out of the emanations. Are these emanations related closely to the primordial matter, out of which all the elements known to chemistry by process of ages have been elaborated?

We are thus brought face to face with the old theory of transmutation and a fresh light is thrown upon the genesis of the elements. Nature would seem to abhor elements of high atomic weights and her tendency is to resolve them gradually into elements of lower atomic weights. Just in the same way complex molecules in the organic world tend to break up into simpler substances. The great life processes elaborate complex materials, but as soon as these processes cease there is a revolution into simpler products accompanied by a loss of energy.

Is it a kindred process in the inorganic world and are the elements of high atomic weight slowly disintegrating in favor of elements of lower atomic weight? If so, the dream of the alchemists may after all be realized. Gold is possibly being slowly resolved into copper or metals of a lower atomic weight than itself by a process of natural decay but transformation of copper into gold is by natural agencies improbable.

According to this view some explanation may be found of the existence in nature of the metals known as noble in limited quantities; unless a method is forthcoming, however, by which the reverse process becomes possible gold may forever remain a standard of currency as its dissolution would be so slow. The native amount may diminish but not sensibly in a very great period of time. If by artificial means, however, what appears to be the natural tendency can be overcome and reversed copper or tin or lead may be resolved into gold.

Theoretically, such an accomplishment may come to be no more wonderful than is the building up of sugar or alcohol from its elements at the present time. Apart from speculating it is a wonderful thing that radium has shown that there exist in nature minerals containing elements of high atomic weight which have a tendency to crumble so to speak into elements of a lower atomic value, in consequence of which possibly the distribution of elements of relatively low atomic value, such as hydrogen, sodium, silicon and oxygen, is common. This view leads us, naturally, to wonder whether the noble elements exist at all in burnt-out worlds.

Not Dangerous.

"Boy," said the self-appointed advisor, "don't be so careless with that gun."

"Oh, it won't hurt you," answered the boy, indifferently.

"Yes; that's what they all say," continued the advisor, "but it is always the empty gun that kills."

"Well, you needn't be disturbed then," replied the gunner, "because this one is loaded with buckshot in both barrels."—Lippincott's.

Poetry Market-Bulls.

She (at the reception)—Well, Mr. Rott, how is poetry now?

Mr. Rott (rising young poet)—Very dull indeed. Patent medicine Terses bring only $1.25 a hundred words, no activity at all in porous plaster ads, and in the slump of prices yesterday children's food rhymes went down 30 points in 15 minutes.—Stray Stories.

Much More Use.

"What is sweeter than to have a friend you can trust?"

"To have a friend that will trust you," was the quick reply.—Stray Stories.

NOVEL RACES IN FRANCE.

Amusing Feature of an Outdoor Entertainment in One of the Country Towns.

Exceedingly novel races for both women and men resulted from the annual gymkhana at Compiegne, near Paris. Perhaps the most diverting, says an account in the Chicago Tribune, was the soda water running match, which had been arranged for competitors of the sterner sex.

At fixed distances along the course bottles of highly charged English soda water were placed—four for each man. In order to win the race each bottle had to be opened in turn and the contents swallowed, it being a condition that none should be spilled to avoid the ordeal of drinking it.

The spectacle of the competitors in their attempts to swallow a bottle of soda water at once proved highly diverting, several suffering temporarily for their haste, although benefiting in the end. They became so charged with gas that they felt as if they were bursting; and three of them were so discouraged by the effect of the first bottle that they could not face the second, and forthwith retired from the race.

What was described as an orange race for young women proved an interesting and attractive event. At regular distances of 20 yards from each other ten oranges were placed on the ground for each competing damsel.

These had all to be picked up and brought back in the hands of the competitor to the finishing line. The difficulty of picking up an orange with several already in one's grasp must be experienced to be appreciated, and the frantic efforts of the young women to pick up more than they could hold provided no end of amusement for the onlookers.

In the result several of the girls dropped every one of their captured oranges before reaching the winning point, and only two succeeded in carrying home the ten circles of golden fruit.

But what seemed to be the most popular competition of all was the necktie race, in which the participants proper were gentlemen, though the fair sex had not a little to do with their chances of success. The distance to be run was some 200 yards, and the competitors had all to start with their neckties undone.

At the end of the first 100 yards were stationed the young women who had undertaken to assist in the race. What each competitor had to was to run as speedily to the particular girl who was awaiting him, and kneel down before her while she neatly and properly tied his necktie. This done, he had only to get up and finish the race by covering the remaining 100 yards.

Another striking novelty was a basket and ball race for ladies. Each girl participating in it started out with a basket containing a dozen balls and attended by a mere male. As she ran she had to throw out of her basket all these balls, one after another, while her knight in attendance was to pick them up as nimbly as he could and return them to her.

The first girl to succeed in getting to the winning post with the 12 balls restored to her basket was to be the winner. In their scrambles after the balls some of the men cut such ludicrous figures that the spectators roared with laughter.

An exceedingly pretty race was the one for young girls, in which they trundled large wooden hoops which were fitted with spokes and gayly decorated with beautiful flowers.

There was also a most eccentric race between a baby warthog, a young ass, a bear, a kangaroo, a black goat, a monkey, a pet goose, a Barbary sheep, a tortoise, a 40-pound turkey, a bantam rooster, an Egyptian scarabaeus, and, most amazing of all, considering that each competitor was driven by its own lady owner, a common little mouse! The monkey wrung the goose's neck, the turkey swallowed the scarabaeus, and the ass bear came in first.

CHILD LABORERS.

Nearly Two Million Employed in the United States in Gainful Occupations.

Mr. W. S. Waudby, special agent of the United States department of labor, in a report on child labor says that the last census shows nearly 2,000,000 children in the United States from 10 to 15 years of age employed in gainful occupations, states the New York Herald. The most of them are at work in the cotton and woolen mills. There are said to be over 1,000 children between the ages of six and 14 employed in five cotton mills in the state of South Carolina which stand within a mile of the state capitol.

The New York law for the government of establishments employing children Mr. Waudby considers the best that has yet been formulated. "The issue of permits," he writes further, "in the city of New York requires not only discretion, but also involves considerable work on the part of the inspector. First, an affidavit stating the date and place of birth of the child must be made. Then the permits are issued in triplicate, one being given to the child, to be kept on file in the establishment where it is employed; one sent to the chief factory inspector, at Albany, and the third kept in the local office.

"A ledger is also kept where the names of the children to whom permits have been issued are alphabetically arranged. These permits give a complete description of the child, in order to prevent fraud in their use; but occasionally fraud is practised.

"As a corrective to this evil, the compulsory registration of the date of the child's birth and the presentation of this certificate would prevent misstatements as to the age, a certification of school attendance and an examination as to educational fitness should be made, and the legal age of employment should be raised in all the states to 16 years at least."

ELECTRICITY IS HARMLESS.

It Is Not Directly Responsible for Damage Done to Life and Property.

Electricity, according to an editorial writer in Cassier's Magazine, rarely does harm—that is, the harm that it does is not a direct electrical effect. The current only sets up something else, such as chemical action or the expansive force of heated vapor, and that does the business. Possibly the man whose water-pipes have been destroyed by electrolysis, or whose dwelling has been shattered by a thunderbolt, does not care greatly whether the electric current is directly or only indirectly responsible for the damage, but the fact, as stated, seems indisputable. Says the writer:

"There are few forces of nature that are less harmful in themselves than electricity. The damage done by flood or tornado, for instance, is done directly by the water or the air. But electricity, when it works, usually does so indirectly or by setting another of nature's forces into operation. An exception to this may be where the victim may have been so weak, physiologically, that a simple fall from a chair might have had a similar result. But in the majority of cases death from electric shock is shown to be due to well-defined chemical changes in the blood or tissues, due to the electric current. The damage done also to gas and water-pipes by electrolysis, while primarily occasioned, it is true, by the escape of electricity from electric-railway circuits, is not directly due to that force, but rather to a secondary action and that a purely chemical one—namely, the setting free by electrical action of certain elements, such as chlorin and sodium, constituents of a saline solution in the soil, which attack and corrode the iron-pipes. Without some such solution in the soil there would be no such thing as electrolysis, also when lightning strikes a tree and shatters it, the result is not due directly to electricity and not even to the heavy current, but rather to the intense heat which the electric current generates in passing through the tree which heat suddenly converts the sap into steam and the latter in expanding at the time be sufficient, tears the tree to pieces. If the force is not sufficiently powerful the effect may be only to loosen the bark of the tree in places, the evidence of which may last for years, but may not be otherwise hurtful to the tree's growth. So far, indeed, from electricity being necessarily fatal to animal or vegetable life, it is well known that in proper quantities it is decidedly beneficial and, when properly applied, acts as a stimulus to vegetation. An excess of current, however, will also kill vegetation in both of these cases its action is due to the chemical changes which it effects in the growing plant or tree."

SNOWFLAKE PICTURES.

The Crystals as They Fall sometimes Form Themselves Into Wonderful Designs.

Jack Frost is an artist of considerable talent. Not only does he take pleasure in rare beauty upon the window panes but he fashions the snowflakes and lays them down upon the ground in such a way as to deposited upon the earth. A number of students have made [illegible] of these creations of their extraordinary variety and have published [illegible] what they look like when magnified [illegible] remarkable collection of artistic photographs of these crystals [illegible] photomicrographs in the possession of Wilson A. Bentley of Jericho Vt. Mr Bentley has been making a special study of snow crystals during 20 years. He has photographed many hundreds of them and has now in his collection more than 1,000 photomicrographs, no two of which are alike.

The forms vary according to the wind, the height of the clouds, the degree of cold, the amount of water in the air etc.

These formed in moderate weather and light winds or in low clouds are apt to have frail branches and to be of a fairly lacy type. mixed forms grow partly in low and partly in high clouds. High winds give broken and irregular forms, and much moisture the very granular crystals.

Heavy granular covered crystals are peculiarly a product of the lower or intermediate cloud strata and especially of moist snowstorms. In intense cold they are rare, while the columnar and solid tubular then become common.

About four-fifths of the perfect forms occur within the west and north quadrants of great storms.

The most common forms outlined within the nuclear or central portions of the crystals are a simple star of six rays, a solid hexagon and a circle. The subsequent additions assume a bewildering variety of shapes, each of which usually differs widely from the one that preceded it and from the primitive nuclear form at its center. By bearing in mind the fact that crystals evolved within the upper clouds tend toward solidity and the crystals formed in lower clouds tend toward open branches and feathery forms it is possible to trace the history and travels of a great many of the crystals.

Moon's Apparent Size.

As seen by different persons, the size of the moon varies from that of a cart wheel to a silver dollar. To many it seems about a foot in diameter, from which Prof. Young concludes that to the average man the distance of the surface of the sky is about 110 feet. It is certain that artists usually represent the moon much too large in size in their paintings. Occasionally they represent it in evening scenes with the horns turned downward instead of upward, whereas they must always point away from the sun. The true angular size of the moon is about half a degree, so that it can always be concealed behind a leadpencil held at arm's length.

ADMIRED THE COWBOY.

Mr. Gladstone Had Much to Say in Praise of the Western American Character.

John Morley's great "Life of Gladstone" has not only thrown light upon some unnoticed aspects of the grand old man's character by the wealth of material contained in its pages, but also in a way not contemplated by the publishers. From all sorts of people and from everywhere a fresh crop of anecdotes is beginning to appear. The following story, never before printed, is vouched for. It seems that shortly after the defeat of the home rule bill an enthusiastic Irish-American sympathizer with the vanquished leader desired to send Gladstone a token of his regard, and, thinking it more dignified to forward it by special envoy, he asked a certain clergyman whose thought of parliaments and a parliament were [illegible] sent him frequently to Europe, to take the present to London. After expressing his pleasure at being [illegible] remembered, Gladstone entertained his clerical visitor by giving him an estimate of the American people.

"A most extraordinary people, sir," said the great commoner, "and no wonder you succeed when even your clergy manifest financial acumen of the highest order. Now, take this as an example. Some time ago I received an astonishing letter from a gentleman styling himself 'the cowboy preacher,' asking me to send him a contribution for his new church in some remote prairie village. I wrote the reverend gentleman that, while my interest in foreign missions was very great, the demands upon my purse nearer home were constant and imperative. I naturally supposed the incident closed, but what do you think that extraordinary person did?" Mr. Gladstone paused and looked at his visitor with twinkling eyes.

"Why, sir, he went on, imagine my surprise on receiving another letter from his some weeks later, thanking me [illegible] the most embarrassing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]