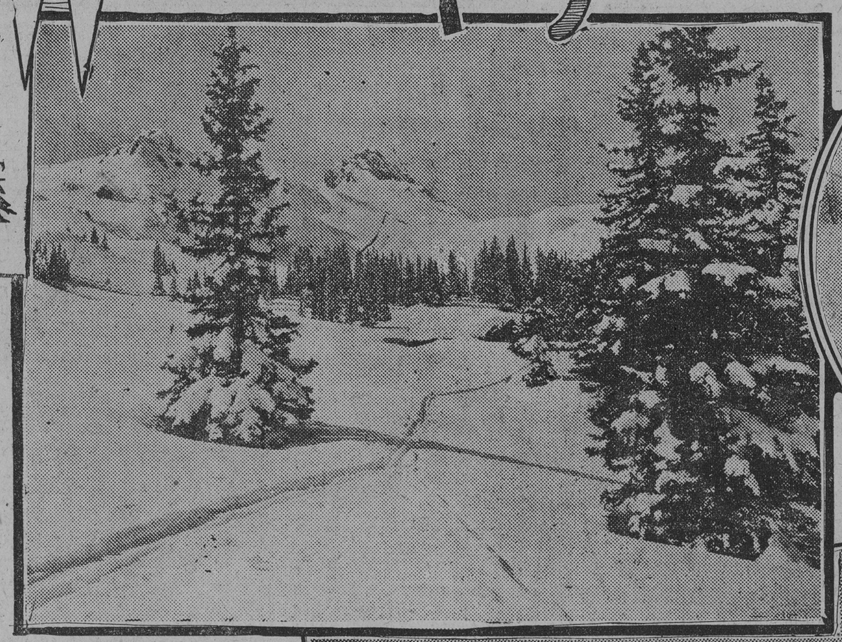
WINTER SPORTS IN SWITZERLAND



CHARMING WINTER LANDSCAPE NEAR ADELBODEN

JUVEILE LOVERS of WINTER SPORTS ST. MORITZ

SKIING AT SAMADEN (UPPER ENGADINE).

TAKING A CORNER ON THE SONLOUP-LES AVANTS BOBSLEIGH RUN.

BY MARIE WIDMER.

A NOVEL interest, almost without equal in the annals of society, has in these latter years taken the world by storm. It has added a new charm to life and all those who have been fortunate enough to make its acquaintance have unanimously declared it to be a benefactor to mankind. I allude to the awakening of the "winter season" in the Alps and the introduction of the many different ice and snow sports.

Winter sport is, of course, dependent upon climatic conditions, and we consequently find all the renowned winter resorts at altitudes ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level, where the season of white abides permanently for at least four to five months.

One of the most famous winter stations in Switzerland, whose very name has become a password among the devotees of winter sport, is St. Moritz—that exquisitely beautiful spot in the Upper Engadine, with its transparent green-blue lake, its pastures, fragrant pines and snow-crowned mountains—6,000 feet above sea level! This is the altitude of St. Moritz-Dorf, whither we will now take a flight in our thoughts. It is December, but winter does not indulge in any cbhangeable moods up here. The sky is of a radiant blue and the atmosphere is so clear and dry that we can conveniently discard some of the heavy wraps which proved a necessity in the lower regions. We find ourselves in a new world—a wonderful fairyland, all resplendent in white; we behold a picture of never-dreamt-of, dazzling beauty which makes us hold our breath. Spellbound we gaze at this revelation and we feel that heaven cannot be far from here.

A Land of Magic Charm.

The glorious mountains which encircle St. Moritz, as precious pearls would cluster around a priceless jewel, send us the welcome of the Engadine. Hundreds and thousands of Christmas trees have been prepared for us. There they stand, artistically dotted about on every slope and assembling in whole forests up yonder. Voices of mirth are heard in the distance and the short drive from the railway station to our hotel indicates to us that winter in the Alps must possess some magic charm—for everybody we pass represents a true picture of happiness.

St. Moritz is a winter station par excellence, offering splendid opportunities for all the different kinds of winter sport with which it will now be our privilege to become acquainted. Fourteen ice rinks are maintained by the Kurverein, and hotels for sports on the ice, which still claim the greatest number of devotees. Skating is the oldest recognized form of winter sport in Teutonic Europe, and it has for centuries already been appreciated as an excellent and beneficial form of exercise and physical culture. It is also more and more regarded as an art which, when thoroughly mastered, becomes an accomplishment to be proud of.

Bandy or ice hockey—another very healthy and fascinating game on the ice—is much played on the special bandy rink, also on a section of the lake reserved for this purpose. Bandy is a ball game, and the origin of ball games is said to date back to the Greek and Roman eras. The ball game mostly in vogue in Europe in these modern days is lawn tennis, and the game of bandy may be described as a sort of tennis, with the exception, of course, that it is played on the ice.

A single glance at the animated scene on one of the hockey rinks convinces us of the great popularity of this game. Learn it, yes that is what we have come for—and the exhilarating air awakens within us an ardent desire to partake in all these frivolities, which is after all the only way to thoroughly enjoy them.

But our attention is involuntarily directed toward another rink close by where a boisterously jolly crowd is apparently enjoying a sweeping match—for behold, each and every one is armed with a broom. These are the curlers, we are told.

Curling a Scotch Sport.

The home of curling is Scotland and a writer describes its origin in the following manner:

"To pick out a stone from the bed of the river—hence the old name 'the channel stane,' and try how near to a given mark he could roll it, would come as naturally to the average Scot as blubber-cooking to the average Esquimo, and then for another Scot to try to beat him would be as natural as for another Esquimo to secure a share of the blubber.

"Thus originating, the evolution of the game would go on with the years, till curling became what it is. Little by little the boulder from the river bed would have its angularities rounded off and its roughness smoothed, and gradually became the thing of beauty which it now is."

The broom plays a most important role in the game, as the players do not use it for keeping a smooth surface on the ice, but the draft caused by the movement of sweeping serves as a means of making the stone glide toward the final tee. It is thus explained why the players of both parties handle this indispensable household utensil with such adroitness and exuberant energy; each one endeavors to keep back his adversary from the tee.

To those who have conquered the art of skating, the ice rink offers no end of opportunities for enjoyment. Ice gymkhanas, as the variety games on the ice are called, include all the funniest stunts imaginable—blind-folded races, potato races, one-legged races, shovel races, anything and everything that tends to provide amusement.

Tobogganing, in former days, used to be strictly a children's privilege, but if the age of the present participants of this sport had to be judged according to this rule, there would be very few adults left. All the customs and conditions of life in these winter sport stations seem to be turned topsy-turvy. Etiquette is no longer considered and "play" is the order of the day with everybody.

A happy and carefree existence—that is what one finds in this sun-bathed winterland.

From the spectacular point of view, the most interesting of all the sports one sees in St. Moritz is tobogganing. The Cresta ice run, which is at the disposal of expert tobogganers is world-famed. The start is near the Kulm Hotel, St. Moritz, and the finish close to the village of Cresta. The course is about three-quarters of a mile long, with a drop of 600 feet, giving a gradient of about one in eight. Champions have covered the distance at the lightning speed of 76 miles an hour, which indicates how much training, strength, judgment and nerve are required by this sport. The toboggans are entirely of steel and are known by the name of "skeleton." They have a sliding seat and are ridden lying down.

Bobbing and Ski-ing.

Tobogganing on the Cresta run is under expert management. No rider can start before a signal has been received that the previous one has arrived at the finish. An electric apparatus registers the time required by each and a special lookout signals any mishap that may befall a rider en route.

For the less experienced riders there is the Dimson run and the general crowd of tobogganers patronize the Village run.

But what is the toboggan in the eye of a bobsleighing enthusiast! Bobsleighing is another form of tobogganing which has become extremely popular during the last decade. The inventor of the "bob" is an American—Wilson Smith—and St. Moritz prides itself of having first introduced this sport in 1890. A bobsleigh is composed of two pairs of steel runners, one behind the other, on which rests a wooden seat, about 10 feet long and about a foot from the ground, capable of accommodating four to six people. The name bobsleighing, or bobbing, owes its origin to the fact that the crew, endeavoring to make the machine go faster, bob forward quickly together at regular intervals, coming back very slowly. Bobbing is a delightful sociable sport and the bob races on the constantly patronized Cresta and Westend bobsleigh runs offer many a pretty sight, as the entire crew is usually dressed to match, in white caps and sweaters.

Ski-ing is still another form of winter sport which has made triumphant progress throughout Switzerland. Its home is Norway, where it has for centuries past been a means of affording communication between the snowbound inhabitants. The graceful slopes and mountain heights around St. Moritz are hailed as a veritable paradise for skiers. Tours which could formerly only be made in summer are now undertaken daily in winter. The ski has opened a new domain to lovers of outdoor life and what can be more exhilarating than a tramp on those immaculate fields of snow in the warm golden sunshine!

A combination of ski-ing and driving is seen in the novel sport of ski-kjoring, where the skiers let themselves be drawn by a harnessed horse. Horses are much in evidence on the lake, as a special race course has been reserved for ski-kjoring and trotting races.

The program for the special sporting events, which include races and competitions in all the different kinds of sports, indicates what an enormous wealth of attractions St. Moritz has to offer. Indeed, we find that the days are far too short to get through so much merrymaking, and the evenings have, of course, another program of their own, where concerts, theatrical performances, balls and carnivals form one series of brilliant festivities.

Americans Leaders in Sports.

A short decade ago there was only one season in Switzerland, that of the glorious summer pageantry, after which the snow descended and everything was deserted in the higher resorts. The hotels were closed down, the proprietors seeking thir winter homes in the valleys below, little dreaming that in a few years hence winter in the Alps would become even more popular than summer.

This is, indeed, a newly created existence, so different from former experiences and only possible where there is such a combination of circumstances that make the conditions perfect for sport. Americans find it a congenial field for outdoor enjoyment. They take well to the fore in all the sports. In the old days Donoghue, of New York, astonished Europe by his speed on the ice, and today Irving Brokaw, another New Yorker, is a prominent exponent of skating, while the figure of Mr. Orthwein, of St. Louis, is familiar on the rink and run. Skeets Martin, too, the little Yankee jockey, blazed the way over the fastest ice run with an American skelton toboggan in its untried dangers, riding in the new head-on position.

These sports are thoroughly organized by the sport clubs. The international championship associations hold their tournaments at different resorts and create worldspread interest; the great speed and figure skating contests, the Grand National Toboggan Race, the German Emperor Cup Race and the great curling and ski-ing contests being followed abroad with eager interest.

All classes are attracted by the spell that winter weaves. The Crown Prince and Princess of Germany have been familiar figures. One often found there is the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, accompanied by his consort; while the Duchess of Marlborough, with her two sons, and her friend, Mrs. Tiffany, of New York, and other members of America's society have also been prominent visitors.

Many of the summer visitors wait over for the coming of snow, and settle down to the enjoyment of the winter. The rinks and runs afford them opportunities for indulging in the thrills of tobogganing and bob-sleighing at a 70 to 90 mile an hour clip. Ski jumping and running, speed skating, strenuous hockey or staid curling offer plenty of variety to the sportively minded.

The cult of the snow and ice is a cure not only for nerves, but for many other ills and ailments of the mind as well as the flesh, and it has been proved that the snow and sunshine offer peculiar benefits that no other form of outing can provide. A winter vacation in Switzerland to avoid the changeable home climate is an opportunity to be seized, especially when the attractions of a perfect gala carnival time are added.

Such are winter days in Switzerland. Listen to the call of the snow! Bundle together your aches and cares; King Zero will take charge of the burden and bestow health and gladness of heart on you instead.

MISSING MILLIONS OF A STRANGELY BORN PRINCESS

BY EX-ATTACHE.

WHEREAS in Great Britain, as also in Russia, the sovereign is above the law—under the maxim that "the king can do no wrong"—in Scandinavia, as in most of the other monarchical countries of Europe, the ruler is amenable to the jurisdiction of the tribunals of the land. Consequently, the Queen Dowager of Denmark, only daughter and heiress of Charles XV. of Sweden, is compelled to defend the suit brought against her recently in the Danish courts by the Swedish member of Parliament, Gustav Johansen, for the recovery of his grandmother's fortune, for the surrender of all the papers concerning that lady's estate, and to submit to a judicial examination in connection with the affair.

The Swedish plaintiff's grandmother was known during the greater part of her life by the name of Madame de la Brache, and there is abundant evidence to show that she was a daughter of King Gustavus IV., penultimate Vasa monarch of Sweden, and the heiress of a great fortune, part of it confided by her uncle, Czar Alexander I., to Charles XIV. of Sweden, for her benefit, but which was wrongfully withheld from her by that sovereign, the founder of the Bernadotte dynasty in Sweden.

A Romance of Royalty.

The affair constitutes one of the most extraordinary of the romances of Old World royalty, and has for some years past been a matter of absorbing interest to the people not only of Sweden but also of Norway and of Denmark. There have been a number of suits instituted in the Swedish courts by Gustav Johansen, one of the most respected members of the Swedish legislature and a leader of the Stockholm bar, and while the proceedings have not hitherto proved successful in bringing about the surrender of his grandmother's missing fortune, or of a number of equally missing important papers relating thereto, the evidence produced in court under cross-examination of statesmen and great dignitaries of the royal household of Sweden, has been of a nature to convince the Scandinavian public that there is plenty of just foundation for the claim, and that Madame de la Brach was no impostor or crank, but everything that her grandson asserts her to have been. Johansen, who is a patriotic Swede, does not hesitate to publicly assert that the extraordinary subserviency of Sweden to Russia, at any rate, until the death of the late King Oscar, the equally strange concessions by the Swedish Crown to Norway throughout the greater part of the nineteenth century, and the refusal of King Oscar to fight when Norway finally threw down the gauntlet and proclaimed her independence, were due to the dread which the reigning house of Sweden entertained of revelations affecting the honor and the fortunes of their dynasty.

Gustavus IV., as students of Swedish history will recall, was brought to the throne at the early age of 14 through the the assassination of his father, and, though handsome, gifted and possessed of a most fascinating manner, did not prove a strong ruler. Married, in 1797, to Princess Frederica of Baden, he was deposed by means of a military pronunciamento in 1809. Forced to sign his abdication after a most dramatic hand-to-hand struggle with General Alderkroutz and the officers implicated in the conspiracy, he was then banished, along with his consort and his children, his uncle taking his place on the throne as Charles XIII. The latter being childless and a great admirer of France and of Napoleon, selected as his heir the French field marshal, Bernadotte, who had been born as a peasant near Pau, and who had risen from the ranks of the army, induced the Swedish National Diet to ratify his choice, and established him at Stockholm as crown prince. Ex-King Gustav retired with his consort, his son and his three daughters (the Princesses Sophia, Amelia and Cecilia) to Germany, where, three years later he parted company from the ex-Queen, their marriage being sundered by a divorce, dated February 17, 1812.

Child's Birth Kept Secret.

Several years later, namely, in 1817, a reconciliation took place between the ex-King and the ex-Queen of Sweden, at the instance of their brother-in-law, Alexander I. of Russia, who had married Queen Frederica's sister. A remarriage was very quietly celebrated in Germany. But before five months had elapsed the reunited couple had again parted company, never to meet again. In the spring of 1818 ex-Queen Frederica gave birth to a daughter, of whom the ex-King was the father. But inasmuch as the remarriage had proved a failure it was decided to keep it a secret, and since Czar Alexander looked upon himself as responsible for the reconciliation he undertook to provide for the welfare of the child.

Christened Anna, she was confided to her grandaunt, the unmarried Princess Sophie Albertine of Holstein-Gottorp and of Sweden, Abbess of Quedlingburg and sister of Charles XIII., the last of the Vasa kings of Sweden, it being stipulated that the child should be brought up by the Princess in ignorance of her parentage, not as a royal personage, but merely as a scion of the aristocracy. At the same time Czar Alexander, who entertained a very warm regard for Charles XIV. of Sweden, the ex-Marshal Bernadotte, and confided in his integrity, deposited with him a sum of 3,000,000 crowns, the income of which was to be applied to the maintenance of the girl. In the event of any failure of the King of Sweden to fulfil the trust, through the loss of his throne or otherwise, the Emperor of Russia was to receive the Island of Gothland, as well as certain northern portions of Norway, by way of compensation.

Imprisoned by Enemies.

When old Princess Sophia Albertine died, in 1830, it was found that she had left a will, in which she bequeathed her own small fortune to her ward, the then 12-year-old Anna, at the same time proclaiming in the testamentary document the parentage of the child and her own relationship to the latter as grand aunt. This was regarded by the reigning house of Bernadotte at Stockholm as a characteristic piece of Vasa animosity and treachery, and efforts were made by the Bernadottes to secure possession of the girl. In some way they ultimately succeeded, and when she was 18 years old they managed to incarcerate her, as suffering from delusions, in a sanitarium at Vadakena, under the care of Professor Tornes, at the same time securing possession of a number of extremely valuable papers left to her by Princess Albertine.

As soon as this became known at St. Petersburg, which was not until some months later, a Russian squadron appeared off the Swedish coast "for cruising purposes," and came into port at Stockholm. Emperor Nicholas is known to have been on board incognito, and to have had several interviews on the flagship with the then Crown Prince and Regent, afterwards Oscar I.

The result of these interviews was the immediate restoration to freedom of Anna by Professor Tornes at the personal direction of Oscar, who took her under his protection, and from that time forth until his death paid her the income of 3,000,000 crowns. It is said that on the occasion of this visit Oscar informed the Czar that he could find no trace of the 3,000,000 crowns confided by Czar Alexander to his father, whereupon Nicholas, on the understanding that the secret treaty dealing with the Island of Gothland, and with the strip of territory in Northern Norway, which he showed to Oscar, be continued, entrusted him with another sum of 3,000,000 crowns for the benefit of Anna.

Not long afterward Anna, who had been endowed by the Swedish authorities with the patronymic of Helga, was married with the consent of Oscar to a man of the name of De la Brache, son of a French noble who had emigrated to Sweden and had settled there at the time of the great revolution in France in 1793. By this marriage Anna had a daughter, who became the wife of a lawyer of the name of Johansen, and Gustav Johansen, the present plaintiff is the offspring of this union and the only grandson and heir, therefore, of Anna Helga de la Brache—in reality Princess Anna of Holstein-Gottor-Vass of Sweden.

The Missing Millions.

Oscar I. paid to Mme. de la Brache her income with the utmost regularity until his death, in 1859, and it was continued by his eldest son and successor, Charles XV. When this king died, in 1872, bequeathing the whole of his large fortune—in fact, every vestige of property that he could will away—to his only child Louise, now Queen Dowager of Denmark, the payments to Mme. De la Brache were suspended. King Oscar declared that his predecessor on the throne had alienated the entire private fortune of the house of Bernadotte; that, aside from his Nassau consort's personal estate, he and his children had nothing to live on save the civil list from the national treasuries of Sweden and Norway, and that he could find no trace whatsoever either of the 3,000,000 crowns intrusted by Czar Alexander I. to his grandfather Charles XIV., or of the second fund of a similar amount confided to his father, Oscar I. by Czar Nicholas I. in 1838. When, however, confronted by the evidence of the regular annual payments received from his two predecessors on the throne by Mme. De la Brache, he yielded to the very peremptory demands of the Russian envoy, Privy Councilor Dashkoff, and very reluctantly continued to make annual payments to her until she died, four or five years later. The Czar's envoy even went so far as to bring pressure to bear upon the Swedish government to institute criminal proceedings for slander against the newspapers and public speakers who had ventured to intimate that Mme. De la Brache was either a fraud or a crank, and in the most ostentatious manner surrounded her with Russian agents to protect her from any possible molestation, either from the Swedish authorities or from private individuals, making it abundantly clear to all that she was under the special protection of the Czar and of the latter's legation at Stockholm.

On Mme. de la Branche's demise, Minister Dashkoff took advantage of King Oscar II.'s absolute refusal to continue the annuity to her daughter and heir, to present a demand upon the Swedish crown for the repayment to his sovereign of the two sums of 3,000,000 crowns each, confided by Nicholas I. and Alexander I. to Charles XIV. and Oscar I., for Mme. de la Brache. The object of this was not so much to recover the money, or to help her daughter, the late Mme. Johansen, as to keep alive Russia's right under the secret treaty to the Island of Gothland, and to the territory in the northern part of Norway, which she (Russia) requires in order to give her an ice-free seaport—a window, so to speak—on to the Atlantic Ocean. The envoy's pretensions excited a considerable amount of indignation, both in the Swedish press and even in the Stockholm legislature. The latter appointed a committee of its members to investigate and make a report on the matter. The report after due inquiry was drawn up by Deputies Mankalt and Vehr, and embodied the entire story of Mme. de la Brache's birth, education, her relationship to Czar Alexander I., the payments made by him and his brother Nicholas on her account, and the secret treaty concluded in the first place between Emperor Alexander and Charles XIV., and renewed by Oscar I. and Czar Nicholas I. When this was submitted to the minister of foreign affairs he declared the facts contained in the report to be "substantially correct." There the matter was allowed to rest for a time until revived by Mme. de la Brache's grandson, Gustav Johansen.

With regard to the missing millions, it is probable that the second moiety was included in the huge fortune bequeathed by Charles XV. of Sweden to his only child, Queen Louise of Denmark, who is acknowledged to be the most wealthy woman in her own right in all Europe; at any rate, among the reigning families. With regard to the other moiety, namely, the 3,000,000 crowns received from Alexander I. by the first of the Bernadotte rulers of Sweden, it is in all likelihood still hidden away—lost, in fact—in the maze of vaults under the royal palace of Stockholm. Charles XIV., who was always a terribly close-fisted man, developed in his old age an extraordinary degree of avarice and miserliness, which was attributed by unkind people to his Pyrennean peasant ancestry. This miserliness developed with advancing years into a positive mania, and was one of the forms of the unbalanced reason which ultimately necessitated the appointment of his son, afterward Oscar I., as regent.

It is known that he had managed to amass in his earlier years an altogether colossal fortune, much of it by means of plunder and by the imposition of crushing war indemnities upon prosperous cities, as the most rapacious commander of the French armies which swept all over Europe. He still further, after establishing himself in Sweden, increased the wealth thus obtained, by economy and by shrewd investments, especially in period immediately following the overthrow of the Napoleonic empire. There has never been any evidence in support of the rumor that he squandered any of this money upon his execrated favorite Magnus Brahe. He certainly did not waste it upon his children, nor upon his charming little French wife, Queen Desiree, daughter of the Marseilles stockbroker, Francis Clary, and whom he was forever reproaching with her bourgeois origin, forgetful of his own peasant parentage, that he had stood on guard as a common soldier on duty at the foot of the scaffold at the execution of King Louis XVI., on, what is now the Place de la Concorde in Paris, and that on his right forearm were tatooed a couple of Phrygian caps, as the emblem of the Revolution of 1793, with below the words "Death to all Kings and Tyrants."

It is generally believed that since not a trace of all his money and treasure was found at his death, it was walled up by him in one of the thousands of vaulted chambers which extend in several stories under the Palace at Stockholm. The palace is built on the site of several earlier royal abodes, the underground portion remaining unchanged, and practically untouched, since originally built as part and parcel of the so-called Berger Jarl Castle, in the year 1251.

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Beauty Parlor Methods Are Necessary to Hold Husbands

IF a woman's husband has begun to neglect her—if he is getting too much interested in someone else—what can she do? She can adopt the methods of the beauty parlor—and win him back again. This is the situation that Elizabeth Jordan presents in her new play, The Lady from Oklahoma. And this is the solution that she suggests for the problem of many a broken home:

Question—How shall I regain my husband's love?

Answer (quite brief)—Beauty parlor.

Miss Jordan's play, which is to be produced in Baltimore, lays bare the secret of the beauty parlor with honesty and merry jest. It also, with honesty and seriousness, points a moral to worried wives. The entire second act of the play takes place in a beauty parlor. There isn't a man in it. Instead there are women in various stages of beautification.

There are women having their hair waved, women having their faces steamed, women having their nails manicured, there is (behind curtains) a woman in an electric bath; there are the young assistants in the beautifying process talking in the most enlightened manner of how the process goes.

And, most of all, there is a woman whose husband has "outgrown" her, and who has recourse to the beauty parlor as a means of catching up.

But back of the play's fun Elizabeth Jordan, who is the editor of a woman's magazine, as well as an author and playwright, has a serious idea in mind and a serious purpose in view.

"This situation isn't solely a situation for comedy," she explains. "This is a picture of what happens in hundreds of women's lives—a suggestion of how to make things better.

"Just exactly as I have insisted on truth in the delineation of the beauty parlor, so have I been careful to bring out the conditions and the possibilities that I believe to be absolutely real in life."

This country is full, Miss Jordan continues, of married women who are not keeping pace with their husbands; who are getting uninteresting and "dowdy," of whom their husbands have long since ceased to be proud.

"A woman can fasten together a big break in her married life just by making herself beautiful and interesting," she said.

"There are a great many broken homes that can be mended by beauty parlor methods.

"Every natural, normal, self-respecting American wants to be proud of his wife. He wants her to look well and to dress well; to be up-to-date, to be charming.

"She belongs to him. He is proud of her if she isn't. She's a part of his life and his success, and he wants her to show up well. When things are at their best she is the woman he loves. But even if she isn't that, she can't help being the woman who bears his name, whose appearance, carriage, conversation—reflect for good or ill, upon him. In a way she's his property. Every normal man wants a wife he can be proud of.

"All over America there are families where the man is 'getting on' and the woman is not. He has made money, perhaps, or won political prominence, or becomes connected through his business with the large interests of the country. He meets other men and talks with them about all sorts of things; he goes out among the families of his business associates and meets women, he travels; he reads the newspapers; he goes to the theater, perhaps to the opera; he is developing.

"His wife, on the contrary, stands still, stays at home, is exactly the woman she was when they were married, has not kept step with his progress. She is dowdy, as I said. She is out of date.

"You see the significance of the beauty parlor?" Miss Jordan went on. "The woman brings herself up to date, becomes good looking. Her hair is modishly and becomingly arranged, her complexion is improved. If she has a double chin she gets rid of it, and if she is too thin she put on flesh. Her nails are manicured and her hands are soft and white. Her eyebrows, even, are 'treated' so that they become pretty.

"She buys new corsets that give her a good figure. She learns what sort of clothes suit her and she gets that sort. She puts on a becoming hat that changes the whole appearance of her once uninteresting face.

"She is transformed. The beauty parlor, the corsetiere, the modiste, the milliner have done their work. She improves her mind, too. She catches up. She wins back her husband when he sees that he can really be proud of her.

"Women are naturally adaptable. Start them in beauty-parlor methods and they soon win out. It doesn't take them long to get in step with their husbands again.

"The beauty parlor idea works wonders."

The Kaiser's Mustache.

[From the London Chronicle.]

The greatest news of the week is the mere rumor that the Kaiser is thinking of changing the angle of his mustache. You may remember the terrible time some years ago when the Kaiser grew a beard, and thousands of photograph sellers were threatened with ruin, until the Kaiser appealed to, consented to abandon the beard. You could get a lot of money if you found a photograph of the Kaiser in a beard. For he cut it off and killed the fashion, but set the fashion of the turned up mustache, which has lived. Shall it die?

To kill the fashion is a pleasing art. It is not only a matter of beard or mustache, but a question of clothes. There was a time when fur capes were coming into fashion. It was some five and twenty years ago. And then some feminine genius bought a fur cape and placed it over the shoulders of her coachman. Henceforth no one who rode behind a coachman ever wore a fur cape again.

For the killing of a fashion you must fire a word—slang with a touch of meaning. Years ago, before you or I came into the world, the young men of means and leisure walked along Piccadilly—beautifully dressed, and with the new-fashioned article into which their cold hands were inserted. But other people noticed them; were rather annoyed at the young gentlemen who stuck their hands into the new-fangled receptacles. And the deadly word came: "A muff." There is probably not a living man who has escaped the influence of that word—in London. We will be frostbitten rather than be called a muff. The word struck the masculine muff dead and left the feminine muff triumphant.

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