NEWS OF THE FAIR SEX.

THE LATEST DEVICES ON ALL MATTERS FEMININE TOPICS.

How Fashion Is Running—Fancy of the Hour—Queer Freaks of Fashion—Ladies Who Sign Her Full Name, etc.

A Queen's Hobby.

The Queen of Italy has a peculiar hobby—a collection of gloves, boots and shoes which have been worn at different periods by royal and imperial personages. She has a pair of white slippers and a fan which belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots; also shoes worn by Queen Anne and the Empress Josephine.

A Vanity of the Hour.

One of the newest fads is the collecting of belt buckles from different parts of the world as souvenirs. Travellers can pick up curious coins in odd places, and many bits of fine silver and gold are found in old junk shops and pawnbrokers' shops. Uncut jewels are seized upon and set in antique designs, and each of these tells its story to the owner and forms the subject for interesting tales.

Novel Fortune in Tea Grounds.

One of the newest devices for the women anxious to know what fate has in reserve for her is the fortune-telling teacup. This cup, which is wide and deep, has its inner surface covered with a network of lines and a border with a number of figures, like lions, serpents and other signs of the zodiac. If the tea leaves rest on certain lines near the figures certain things may be safely expected to come to pass, and if the fortune teller, upon consulting a mysterious booklet in scarlet covers that comes with the cup, will authoritatively announce the advent of sweethearts or gifts, or bid the inquirer "beware the dark-eyed stranger whom she is soon to meet." The cup is a popular addendum to the afternoon tea table.—New York Tribune.

Signs Her Full Name.

There are styles in which a woman signs her name, just as there are styles in everything else; and if they have changed less frequently than have those fashions in dress, carpets and wall papers, they have changed no less surely. In times past women not infrequently subscribed themselves by the initials, one or more, as the case may have been, of the Christian name, but since women have entered so extensively into the professions and employments and have become accustomed to handling business correspondence and signing checks, M. Smith and E. J. Jones are rapidly giving way to Mary Smith or Elizabeth Jamison Jones.

Changes in the character of the names themselves are no less observable and equally interesting. There seems to be a reaction from fancier names, such as Gladys, Beatrice, Evelyn, to the Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth and Katherine of our grandmothers' time. Even the once much despised Sarah, now spelt without the "h," has become fashionable. Nor are these diminutives as popular as they once were. In this direction the influence of higher schools and colleges for girls has been exerted to excellent purpose.—Philadelphia Times.

Some Handsome Fans.

The Parisian fanmaker is the designer of the fashions of the present day and Duvelleroy, in England, is not only a designer, but has a rare collection of old fans. The lace fan is among the finest of the Duvelleroy fans, the sticks being of tortoise shell or mother-of-pearl. This fan also shows some beautifully painted fans of the Louis XVI. style and Venus Martin.

In our own shops we find a splendid collection of the most exquisite designs. There is a black and violet fan of the "Clariolet" style, which is very beautiful. The pearl sticks are inlaid, and upon the mount are painted dainty Watteau figures. Another is of black gauze, with tortoise shell sticks. Upon a Louis XVI. fan of black gauze are green medallions, upon which spear lovers with chubby cupids hovering near.

The fans are from nine to ten inches in length, the tiny empire fan not being as popular as it was several seasons ago. There are many pretty chiffon fans, one having a pretty pastoral scene painted upon it. Another of white chiffon has white silver spangles decorating it. One very unique fan is made of silk, upon which are appliqued designs in Chantilly lace, and alternating with the lace medallions are pretty little hand-painted figures; the inlaid sticks are painted and spangled. A pale cream-colored silk fan, elaborately ornamented with figures in the style of the Vernis Martin fans, is among the most expensive. Paillettes of shining steel are used to sew the delicate patterns of flower sprays appliqued on the net and chiffon.—Washington Star.

New French Lingerie.

Very dainty underwear in colored lawn is sold nowadays. Figured nainsook, Italian cord and nainsook dimity, with ribbons to run in the chemises and petticoats, etc. For wear with these long ruffled petticoats of fine lawn, blue, green and rose-colored silk petticoats are worn. They look well when the lace skirt is raised, and wash as well as white petticoats. The new chemises taper at the waist line or have belts of ribbon beading to draw in the fulness of the material. They have elaborate yokes of fine tucks, rows of insertions, ribbon beading, etc. Tiny puffings between rows of transparent lace flowers are effective, and the epaulets and revers of lace or of muslin much inserted with lace or embroidery are new and dainty. The low corset has given a new impetus to designers of fanciful chemises, and even the woman who has thought an embroidered monogram and a narrow edging of hand embroidery the acme of elegance in lingerie succumbs to the fragile beauty of the new French underwear.

In batiste and lawn and soft China silk the new nightgowns are made empire fashion, with short waists and long skirts, and short puffed sleeves. The belt, neck and arms edged with trails of embroidered flowers. The fronts are laid in fine tucks or narrow accordion plaits. Nightrobes, with wide collars, bishop sleeves and long stoles with frilled edges that fall from the neck and taper down to the feet are very soft and becoming. Some of the short sleeves are shirred and hang loose, angel fashion, from the shoulders to show the arms. A good deal of lace insertion and frills of fine net are used on the revers and collars of night dresses. A pretty gown has a transparent lace yoke lined with white net, with a small turned-down frill at the back of the neck tied with narrow ribbon. This terminating in a rosette at each shoulder seam, while the gown itself hangs straight from the yoke. A ribbon being drawn round the waist from the back to the front.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

A Mending Factory.

Buried in the heart of the quiet residence portion of Boston is the oddest little factory in the world. There, in a little alcove overlooking Governor Walcott's mansion and adjacent dwellings of fashionable Back Bay, unbeknown to many of the nearest neighbors, is a reconstruction factory—a tiny laboratory where heaps of worthless fragments of glass and china are annually reconstructed into goodly piles and wagon-loads of dollars in the form of beautiful vases, highly prized statuary and other precious bric-a-brac of stone or vitreous material.

From the outside you would never recognize the factory, for the single window, though fronting the street, is at the top of a fine old mansion, and is bordered by ivy without and a trailing vine within, back of which a fire is burning all day.

A glance into the interior after laboratory hours would scarcely suffice even Sherlock Holmes to tell its true character, for on all that any one sees is a luxurious divan, a harp, a carved bookcase, a heavy mahogany table and a leather covered chair. But should you happen to visit it when the proprietress is there and the door of a rather spacious closet is open you would see within kaleidoscopic rows of precious plaques and vases, ancient and modern, from the shelves; cement and modern, from the shelves; cement and modern, from the shelves; cement