

Transcribed Excerpt from "Woman and Her Ways," January 10, 1907

Woman and Her Ways

By Estelline Bennett

Leisure--A Lost Art

The so-called leisure classes lead as hurried and strenuous an existence as people who work ten hours a day for a mere existence, and the women of the rich who need take no thought for the morrow, what they shall eat, or what they shall drink, or wherewithal they shall be clothed, have nevertheless fallen into the same rush and hurry as the men who are fighting for fortunes and fame. Everyone knows the obligations and occupations of the fashionable woman. She must be charming, and to keep her youth and beauty takes time. She must give hours to her hair dresser, her masseur, her manicurist, she must take her daily exercise. Her dressmaker takes much of her time, and when all this is done, she has only commenced. She has her luncheons, teas, receptions, charity fetes, dinners, balls, and theater parties, and to accomplish all these she must always rush. The automobile, telephone, electricity, all practical modern things which have the advantage of moving quickly, of gaining time, seem to push and hurry modern life into a round of perpetual motion. It is characteristic of modern life. If a woman finds a little time between times for leisure, she does not take it to rest. She does not take a siesta on her couch or read a restful book, she plays bridge. And when one plays bridge, it is good by [sic] to pleasant comradeship, interesting thoughts, or intelligent conversation. There is only the table and the cards. They make work of their play. And that is the resume of modern life. Society women not only endure it, but they seem to love it. When summer comes and one would naturally expect them to take a little much needed rest, the majority of them betake themselves to watering places or mountain resorts where they find the life of the city reproduced.

And yet, when all is said and done, life is not so different, nor women so different, from one century to the next. Women simply progress with the age, they keep abreast of the times. They do more to-day than they did in Colonial times because it is possible to do more in a given time than in the days of our great-great-grandmothers. One can travel faster and farther in an automobile than in a pony chaise...