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### FIRST WOMAN'S MAGAZINE.

Two hundred years ago, on January 17th, 1727, there appeared the first woman's magazine. It was the third and most ambitious effort so far made in the direction of feminine journalism. A woman's newspaper; a short-lived venture, excessively rare, there had been; and a scurrilous plagiarism of the popular *Tatler*, called the *Female Tatler*, which did not really pretend to cater for women; and a woman's diary. But the producers had in each case thought rather of themselves than of their ostensible public, the author of the early woman's newspaper indulging a taste for the highly scandalous, and the writer of the "Ladies' Diary" propounding abstruse mathematical problems for his readers' solution.

### A LADIES' JOURNAL.

In 1727, however, a Dublin printer had the original idea of publishing a weekly "Ladies Journal," devoted to "the lighter affairs of ladies"—a design, as he justly put it, "entirely New." Mr. W. Wilmot, the promoter and editor of this venture, was a young publisher with premises "on the Blind-Key near Fishamble Street," in Dublin, who had taken subscriptions for a volume of songs, which for some reason he found himself unable to issue. Not to disappoint his subscribers he altered his design, and on January 17th produced the first number of his little "Ladies' Journal," a small affair, printed of the same size as the diaries and almanacs then in vogue, "in order to make a neat Pocket Volume."

The "Journal" was indeed "entirely New." Mr. Wilmot omitted from his scheme articles on or illustrations of dress and fashion, which were not offered to women readers until the appearance of John Newbery's "Ladies' Pocket Books" in 1756. But in other respects the publication was a real woman's magazine.

### LOVE AND GALLANTRY.

Under the heading of some appropriate motto from a contemporary play, and between prettily engraved head and tail-pieces, the early Georgian ladies discovered instead of scandal or mathematics, "Discourses over a Tea-Table," which comprised such topics as "The Distinction between the two Passions, Love and Desire," "A Walk into the Country," or "The Education of Ladies." Songs, including many Vauxhall favourites, of which the editor had collected a store for his original project, filled a large space in the "Journal"—pretty ditties about sailor lads "huzzing for their King," or commending their Pollies and Sukeys, or ballads of "Daphne and Coridon," and "Vain Belinda," with music and flute accompaniments. Correspondence was also invited, particularly on "the agreeable subjects of Love and Gallantry,"

and sentimental readers discoursed at length on their "Unhappy Cases" which generally resolved themselves into a stern parent's opposition to the suit of some handsome and penniless ensign, or a husband's meanness in the matter of pin-money—with rather more frankness at times than our modern taste would quite approve.

### PEWTER ORNAMENTS.

In this country where the use of oak furniture is so largely indulged in, the vogue of pewter which is so fashionable at the moment is decidedly interesting. Anyone fortunate enough to possess a room with old-oak panelling naturally buys the few pieces of pewter that will set off the oak to the best advantage. There are many modern houses, moreover, with long, oak-panelled dining-rooms reproducing a 17th century design, for which the owner, after the most careful considerations decides that pewter is the only possible ornament. The first plate and tankard bought for the wall and mantelpiece nearly always turns the purchaser into a collector, for pewter has an extraordinary fascination for anyone who has once dabbled in the subject, possibly because it always has marks of usage on it, or because it does not have to be put away in a cabinet, possibly also for its silver-grey hue or for the conjectures it arouses in the imaginative mind.

### PRICES INCREASING.

Unfortunately, supplies are getting scarce, and a plate that was 5s. before the war is now £1. Some of the best pieces are going to America. It is thought that during the war a great deal of German pewter must have been melted down owing to the urgent need for its components—lead, tin, and antimony. Swiss, German, and French pewter are not as attractive as the English, which is more silvery in colour. As pewter was always used for practical purposes it is occasionally possible to pick up some interesting relics, such as a set of "haystack" measures for whisky and so forth, or a plate with a bishop's crown, indicating the dignity for whom it was made.

### STILL BEING MADE.

A certain amount of modern pewter is being reproduced by handicraft workers. Its silvery colour, its decorative nature, and the fact that it does not tarnish readily have created a demand for it, chiefly as a substitute for the cheaper grade of silverware. There is a proportion of copper in the modern alloy to make it workable. As in the old days, it is made chiefly into practical objects for daily use, such as cake and fruit dishes, hot-water cans, tea and coffee sets, kettles, and tobacco jars. Since its use for domestic purpose has been practically continuous, modern pewter has a claim to recognition by the collector, even though the modern alloy and modern designs have produced a totally different kind of ware.

### CAN'T BE FOUND.

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