



A BRIDAL PARTY AWHEEL.

*One of the phases of the use of the bicycle which is on the increase.*

## PHASES OF THE BICYCLE CRAZE.

*By R. H. De Kalb.*

**O**UTSIDE of its mere popularity as a means of locomotion, the bicycle is, perhaps, more responsible for the cultivation of fads and the bringing out of some peculiar phases of human nature than almost anything else which can be mentioned. In the late seventies none but a youth had the temerity to bestride the ungainly and precarious high wheel, and his elders either furnished him with one under protest, or else shook their heads dubiously and enlarged their corps of family doctors to provide against the contingencies of broken bones. As for mothers and sisters, they involun-

tarily closed their eyes every time their sons or brothers were in evidence upon such unstable equilibrium, and a sigh of relief went up when the foolhardy masculines descended from their perch intact; but by good luck, Providence, or whatever it may be termed, the percentage of accidents was less than the most conservative of the alarmists prophesied, and the adult element began to seriously consider the new vehicle. For a time only the more active of the heads of families had the hardihood to put aside their prejudices and ride, but it came all in good time, and then came the letting down of the



bars entirely when the safety made its advent.

It is now a round ten years since the two low wheels came to cater to the speed of the racing man and the comfort and security of everybody, and the changes it has wrought even in the most complex conditions of life have been marvelous indeed. For two or three years the new adaptation did not make much impression upon the feminine ranks, and those few who did break through the bars set up by Madame Grundy throughout the country upon which



WITHOUT THE WHEEL THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

and her puritanical followers had anything but a comfortable time of it. But now all is different, and the girl or woman who does not ride is looked upon commiseratingly, and should any of the old recalcitrants hint at impropriety they are frowned upon with a unanimity which is as refreshing as it is contrasting to the sentiment so prevalent five years back.

A spin up the Boulevard in New York, or upon any of the roads



THE BICYCLE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAVOR WITH WHICH WE REGARD THE ATHLETIC YOUNG WOMAN.



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THE BICYCLE IS EXCEEDINGLY POPULAR WITH ACTRESSES. AND HERE ARE SHOWN DAISY DIXON, JOSEPHINE HALL, EFFIE ELLSLER, AND MLE. YAHNE ON THEIR FAVORITE MOUNTS.

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CLARA LIPMAN UTILIZING HER WHEEL FOR AN EASY-CHAIR WHILE ON THE ROAD.

cyclers congregate, reveals all sorts and conditions of men and women, and youths and maidens awheel: there are



NOTHING BUT CENTURY RUNS APPEAL TO THIS ENTHUSIAST.

the grandparents blithely coasting a hill, and there are the parents and grandchildren industriously pedalling along the lower levels. And then if one should draw near one of the resting groups, where sedate age and restive youth is commingled, what manner of speech will be heard? Naturally the elders will be gravely debating the Cuban question or the amount of the Greek indemnity, but in reality the whole company are in the midst of a most spirited controversy about the merits of some particular wheel, or else some one more learned than the rest in the mysteries of seamless drawn tubing descants eloquently upon the superiority of flush joints and double crown forks.

As far as women are concerned, it must be conceded that the bicycle is much more than a fashion or a fad; the necessity of a suitable costume, whose first requirement was ease and freedom of movement, has done more to regenerate the evils of fashionable dress than



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MINNIE ASHLEY READY TO THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET TO ANY FOOLHARDY SCORCHER.

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A MAID WHO LOVES THE MOON AND NIGHT.

twenty-five years of aggressive argument on the part of Susan B. Anthony. It is not Susan B. Anthony who has won the day, although she triumphantly announces herself a victor; it was common sense in the cause of a common amusement.

Doucet's most recherché gowns, whether for an evening reception or an afternoon promenade, bear the impress of bicycle regeneration. The woman of to-day positively refuses to drag about the ponderously heavy skirts that were in vogue less than ten years ago.

For years physicians have preached against the evils of tight lacing, and artists pointed in vain to the generous proportions of the Venus de Milo: women were satisfied to admire and approve, but not to follow. The woman of the nineteenth century gloried in her



THE WHEEL HAS PEOPLED THE WOODS WITH THE MOST TANGIBLE OF DRYADS.



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ANNA HELD.

*The French chanteuse is one of the most persistent of wheelwomen.*

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sensitive nerves. It was hardly considered good form to be in good health. Every woman in society to-day recalls the fashionable folly of pale cheeks that reigned supreme during a few seasons. If the woman of to-day is proud of her physique, her healthy color, her steady



THE RESULT OF AN ARGUMENT AS TO WHICH RODE THE BETTER WHEEL.

nerves, her broad chest, and the ample lines of her waist, it is not the wise physician nor even the perfect Venus de Milo who has won the battle so long waged; it is only another phase of the overmastering influence of the bicycle in social life.



THE OUTCOME OF AN ATTEMPT TO PASS EACH OTHER ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE ROAD.





THE AVANT-COURRIER.

*"Come on! We can jump across."*



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**MABEL LOVE ON HER WAY TO HYDE PARK FOR A MORNING SPIN.**