

# CONCERNING FASHIONS

**Woman in Snakekin.**  
Wonders in dress never cease. The anaconda snake is to cust the beaver. This snakeskin is the newest novelty in the dress of women motorists. At present there is only one anaconda skin coat in existence, and its inventor, Mr. Ganner, proudly showed it to a reporter in London, the other day.

It was an elegant production, three-quarter length, in delicate shades of cream color and brown, with cuffs, collar and revers of beaver fur, and lined with brown satin.

"Although anaconda skin is not difficult to obtain," said the inventor of the coat, "the matching of sufficient skins is the great difficulty. The coat is made of four skins, and one of the most attractive points in its favor is its extreme lightness.

"Anaconda skin is as flexible and soft as broadtail, and its durability is practically everlasting. Its bright and scaly surface is never duller, and will never wear out.

"It is several degrees warmer than any known fur, and as a trimming anaconda skin is a novelty this season."

"Collars, cuffs and revers of the skin are all the rage, and toques and even muffis are being made of it."—Montreal Herald.

## For the Afternoon.



Afternoon gown of mixed lavender and heliotrope with plain darker cloth accessories edged with silver brain and fine platings of lavender silk. Lavender hat with heliotrope plumes.

**A Rose Jar Without Roses.**  
A rose jar, properly cared for, is an unending delight. Without the rose petals a sweet-smelling jar can be made of a quarter of an ounce each of mace, allspice and cloves, all coarsely ground or pounded in a mortar; half of a nutmeg grated; half an ounce of cinnamon, broken fine; one ounce of powdered dried root and a quarter of a pound of dried lavender flowers. After these have been mixed in a bowl a few drops of different essential oils are added—rose, geranium, neroli and bitter almond, perhaps—with an ounce of good cologne.

It will need an addition, from time to time, of one of its ingredients until all have eventually been renewed, for leaving the jar open, even for a half hour each day, which is enough for a pretty thorough scenting, takes away something of its strength.

**The All-Black Dress.**  
For some occult reason the all-black dress has been "de mode" for several years, but next winter we are told that it is to be extremely smart. In or out of style a black gown must remain the most distinguished one a woman can wear. A black confection for evening wear, trimmed with bands of handsome jet, is always charming for a matron. Nothing for this purpose is more effective than one of the new black nets. Speaking of net reminds me that the net day frock of the moment is a more economical pur-



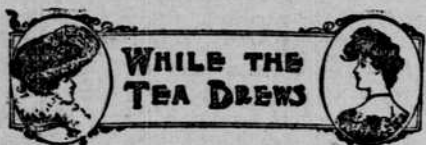
## TWO SMART WALKING COSTUMES.

The costume at the left is of green cloth. The skirt is slightly gathered at the top and is made with groups of gathers at the bottom, headed with motifs of velvet and shells of silk galloon, with large flat buttons of the cloth, forming a most original trimming. The draped blouse and the sleeves are trimmed to correspond,

chase than one would expect. In the dark colors so quaintly modish nowadays it is a charming contrast to the light colors in which every one appears on smart occasions.

## For Street or Theater.

An ideal calling gown or one quite appropriate for matinee wear is made from very supple dark blue broad cloth. The skirt is walking length, of circular cut and flaring prettily from knee depth at each seam. A most attractive jacket accompanies it. Wide straps of the cloth form the revers and extend around the bottom, two points crossing where a closing is effected. The flat collar and strappings on sleeves are bordered by a narrow plating of blue taffeta and dull gold buttons trim sleeves and jacket.



WHILE THE TEA DREWS

Plenty of fur scarfs have appeared in the street.

The new derby for woman's dress wear is queer.

Velvet dome crowns with beaver brims are novelties.

The deep pink felt hat promises to be immensely fashionable.

Hand-embroidered blouses are likely to be worn throughout the entire winter.

Linen shirt waists, tucked, and as plain as a pipe stem, will be worn by younger women.

The smartest waists are worn outside the skirt and finished with a bias fold of satin or velvet.

The chiffon veil has a new use. It is tied into a big bow and tacked to the back of the hat, with floating ends.

A funny little round white hat of corded silk, for a child, has the straight brim, edged with a band of mink fur.

## Velvet Didn't Get Left.

Velveteen street costumes have put in an appearance already and the good qualities of chiffon velvet and all silk mousseline velvet are in demand even at this early date. The crushed velvet so parodied and abused last season has mercifully disappeared, but some of the new velvets show a shadowy ripple almost like a modified moire effect over their surfaces.

The princess skirt with short bolero is fancied by many designers for the velvet gown, and where a princess skirt is not liked a very deep pointed girle forming the greater part of the bodice is used with the plain sweeping skirt and abbreviated bolero.

## Modish and Popular.

Among the newest in coats at the New York horse show were the empire models. There is no reason to doubt that the empire lines will be extremely modish and popular among the winter coats and the innovation is not confined to picturesque carriage, visiting and evening coats, but has invaded even the province of the tailored street costume. One fanciful but exquisite empire coat is of petunia cloth. The collar is of a darker shade of velvet and the sleeves and bodice are draped and garnished with buttons of taffeta.

## Pretty Epaulets.

Women who do not like the full puffy sleeves that stick out from the shoulders, and who, at the same time do not find the sloping shoulder effect becoming, are finding little epaulets all that they desire. On many of the pretty lace blouses little frills of lace form a plastron of embroidery top the sleeve. The dress of cloth, too, has a shaped piece of embroidered silk or velvet, or from the collar itself will start an ornamentation that widens out, and, falling over the arm, is there edged with a frill of lace or a silk fringe.

## Velvet Trimmings.

It is an English fancy to use velvet trimmings on checks, many of

them being rich, dark plaids which demand trimming of dark colored velvets. Velvet tight fitting coats are also worn with both checked and plain cloth skirt, which revives a fashion of long ago, which always has good possibilities. These checked tweed skirts already are worn abroad with plain cloth jackets, which is a forecast of what will be followed here in another season.

## Fur-Trimmed Gowns.

Fur-trimmed gowns are in fashion once more, after a long retirement. At present the trimming is mostly confined to coats, but a few fur-trimmed skirts are seen. Short-haired fur is used, the popular caracal being much in evidence. This fur is so pliable and so easily manipulated as to make it valuable for trimming purposes. Collars, cuffs and jacket of fur appear on some of the smartest of imported street gowns. Sometimes the skirt shows a few medallions of fur to match the jacket, but more often it is quite untrimmed. Evening and reception gowns are being trimmed with sable, mink, ermine and other costly furs.

## Lady's Morning Jacket.

This charming design for a dressing sack is adapted to a variety of materials, although as here pictured it was developed in pale blue China silk, accented with pleated. The garment is shaped by shoulder and underarm seams and gathers in the upper part of the front afford sufficient fullness. The mode is distinguished by a deep cape collar, trimmed with lace insertion and finished by a frill of lace. The



elbow sleeves are trimmed with two deep ruffles of the silk, further elaborated by bands of insertion and lace frills, as is also the lower edge of the jacket. If accorcion pleated material is not desired, other fabrics such as cashmere, flannel, silk, dimity and lawn could be used.

## Empire Coats.

Empire coats of three-quarter length are among the many cloth coat and skirt models, and though these costumes are tailored great originality is shown in the little details of collars, buttons, etc. One seen recently was in dark blue, with strappings of cloth set on in design. There is an invisible closing and the collar is sealskin. It is lined throughout with pearl gray satin.



Do not leave scrubbing brushes with the bristles turned up, or the dampness from them will run into the body of the brush and loosen the bristles in their sockets.

A glass decanter may be cleaned by breaking up eggshells into small pieces, putting them into the decanter, which is half filled with water, and thoroughly shaken.

When housecleaning the bedroom wash the toilet ware with soap and water, and then fill the vessels with boiling hot soda water; put them in the air and leave them filled for half a day until thoroughly disinfected.

Never put summer clothes away in a soiled condition. They may be worn in a hurry when the first warm days of spring occur, and then there is much discomfort. Linen and muslins should be packed away un starched, however, to prevent their becoming yellow.

## The Latest in Stocks.

Many of the newest gowns are fitted with a stock that is especially created for the wearer who, perhaps, disdains the use of ready-made neck arrangements. Some of the newest stocks are graduated in size, and are shaped behind the ears and come down low in front. Many of them are transparent, and are invisibly boned. The high, stiff stock, of the way, is distinctly growing out of favor.

## To Clean a Mackintosh.

Spread the cloak out on a deal table and go over it carefully with a small scrubbing brush and some soap-suds moistened with rain water. Rinse in plenty of clear cold water and hang out in the shade to dry. Stains which will not yield to soap and water will probably be easily removed by rubbing them with a little ammonia.

## Novelty in Gloves.

Among the newest gloves are the plaques. The kid pique is quite a novelty. It has two large pearl buttons. The top of the glove has a smart finish of two edges, pinked, one below the other, and contrasting in color with the shade of the glove.

## Linings for Wraps.

Satin brocade has been used by Paquin for the lining of some of his three-quarter and long coats. worn

# TOLD OF THE VETERANS

Old Age.  
It is too late! Ah! nothing is too late till the tired heart shall cease to palpitate.  
Cato learned Greek at eighty; Sophocles wrote his grand Oedipus and Simonides bore of the prize of verse from his competitors.  
When each had numbered more than four score years;  
And Theophrastus at four-score and ten; Had but begun his "Characters of Men;" Chaucer, at Woodstock, with the nightingale.  
At sixty wrote the "Canterbury Tales;" Goethe, at Weimar, toiling to the last.  
Complete "Faust" when eighty years were past.

What, then? Shall we sit idly down and say: "The night hath come; it is no longer day? The night hath not yet come; we are not quit." Cut off from labor by the falling light; Something remains for us to do or dare, Even the oldest trees some fruit may bear.  
For age is opportunity no less Than youth itself, though in another dress; And as the evening twilight fades away, The stars are filled with stars, invisible by day.  
—Henry W. Longfellow.

## Bouton's Battery.

At an artillery review in St. Louis in February, 1862, Gen. Halleck stated that he considered Bouton's Battery the finest battery he had ever seen in any service either in Europe or America. At a review of troops at College Hill, Miss., in December, 1862, Gen. Sherman stated that, at the commencement of the war he had felt great concern regarding what we should do for field artillery, as it had always been considered in the old regular army that the three years' service was necessary to make good and efficient artillerymen, but in Europe five to seven years, but that Bouton's Battery, though hardly yet a year in the service, he considered equal in efficiency to any battery in any service.

Although Bouton's Battery was organized in Chicago, it had men from several of the Northwestern states, quite a number from Ohio and from the sawmills and lumber regions of Wisconsin, and it is likely that a finer body of men from an athletic and physical point of view were never embraced in an organization of the same number.

Capt. Edward Bouton recruited this battery largely at his own expense, so that even when it was mustered into the United States service it had cost the state of Illinois but \$12.53 per man, at a time when it was costing the state an average of \$154 per capita to put soldiers in the field. The battery consisting of an aggregate of 154 men, proceeded to St. Louis in January, 1862, where it procured six fine new James rifles, caliber 3.80, throwing projectiles weighing four pounds.

At this time the government was purchasing from 500 to 1,200 horses per day, at St. Louis, and was getting splendid animals from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. Bouton obtained permission from Capt. Parsons, the purchasing quartermaster, to take his pick from these horses as they were inspected and accepted, and he selected from three to ten a day, until he had procured 128 animals. Four guns and their caissons, requiring eight teams of six horses each, were supplied with bright bays, and the remaining two guns and their caissons were perfectly matched, and any pair of them would be likely to attract attention if driven through any city attached to a carriage. The battery wagon, forge, ambulances and baggage wagons were furnished with equally fine animals.

From the first organization of the battery, the officers, under Capt. Bouton's direction, applied themselves diligently to drilling the men, so that when the battery was brought into active service in the field, the men had acquired a great degree of perfection in drill and discipline, and were well prepared to attain the high reputation for efficiency for which they became noted. In over four years' service, this battery never failed to win favorable mention on many a hard-fought field, particularly distinguishing itself at Shiloh, Nashville and Franklin.

At the battle of Nashville Bouton's Battery was attached to Hatch's division of cavalry, which constituted the extreme right of the Union forces. In the night some 600 men hoisted one of the guns up the almost perpendicular face of a high hill well in the rear of the left of the rebel army, and at daylight fired the signal shot for the commencement of the attack on the rebel position.

This battery participated in seven great battles and forty-six important skirmishes that were officially reported and probably a hundred minor skirmishes that were never reported. They were with the extreme advance in the pursuit of Hood's army, after Nashville, and in that pursuit went into action on an average of six times a day for ten days. Among which was a very hard fight at Duck river, lasting several hours. There was a flood rise of fourteen feet in this river and Hood had to abandon nearly all of his wagons and artillery, and supposed he was clear of the Union batteries as well, but Bouton's Battery took their ammunition chests across the river on rafts hastily constructed, principally from the beds of abandoned rebel army wagons, swam their horses across, and splicing their prolongs, dragged the guns through fourteen to eighteen feet of water, and in two hours were pounding away at Hood's forces again.

This battery not only never lost a gun, but with the exception of Shiloh, and perhaps two other instances, where the entire line fell back, they never receded from a position they had taken. Their guns were especially adapted to throwing canister; each charge of canister weighed fourteen pounds, contained 240 projectiles and when hard-pressed they would double-shot, and for a short time could fire six rounds per minute, or 7,800 missiles from each gun, 17,280 from the entire six guns per minute, which no force could withstand. Bouton's Battery was noted throughout the army for rapidity of fire and accuracy of aim. Gen. Hatch used to say that Bouton's Battery could shoot

prairie chickens on the wing. On one occasion during the Nashville campaign, in a hard fight between Nashville and Duck river, Bouton's Battery not only silenced a rebel battery, but drove the man entirely away from it, and went with their own limbers and took the guns and carried them off. Two of the guns proved to be James rifles that had been captured from Waterhouse's Battery at Shiloh. So far as known, this was the only instance during the war of one battery capturing another's battery and actually carrying off its guns.

A high testimonial of the character of the men composing Bouton's Battery is the fact that fifty-three of the enlisted men were promoted to be commissioned officers during their terms of enlistment.—Los Angeles Times.

## To Department Commanders.

Allan C. Bakewell, national patriotic instructor of the Grand Army of the Republic, has issued the following letter to the department commanders: Dear Sir and Comrade—As you are undoubtedly aware, the National Encampment assembled at Denver adopted amendments to rules and regulations whereby patriotic education is to be governed.

The rules now provide for the appointment by the commander in chief of a national patriotic instructor, and by department commanders of department patriotic instructors, who, by virtue of their office, will be members of the Council of Administration. In view of the importance of this department of Grand Army work, its acknowledged benefit to the country in whose interests every soldier and patriot deems it his duty and privilege to serve, and which, through the grand results attained, reflects credit and renown upon the order, it is urgently requested of you that the appointment for your department be promptly made and that the appointee be instructed to report his acceptance to these headquarters.

It will be of great benefit to the cause of which we are all so justly proud if the comrade appointed shall be of those who have ability and physical strength to take up this service with deep interest and energy, and it is earnestly requested that the appointments shall be made only of those who will accept the same for the sole purpose of aiding patriotic instruction. The rank of the department patriotic instructor will be designated by an official badge with a silver eagle upon the strap, and he will be entitled to a commission issued from your headquarters. These instructors will be privileged, when advised from the headquarters of the method, to appoint, with your approval, district aides, whose rank will be designated by one gilt bar on the badge strap. Full instructions to department instructors will be issued from these headquarters, and blank forms for reports, etc., to be made annually, will be furnished from national headquarters.

## Gen. Grant's Pilot Dead.

Capt. Charles Powers, a noted Mississippi river pilot who distinguished himself in the civil war, died recently at Chicago. He was 72 years old and was born in Charleston, Clark county, Ind. In his boyhood days Capt. Powers' ambition was to be a pilot, and when he was 13 years old he left home with the announced intention of becoming a steamboat official. He began as a knife-scourer in the cook house and advanced as owner of several large boats. When the civil war broke out the steamer W. F. Curtis, owned by Capt. Powers and run between Pittsburg and St. Louis, was chartered by the government. At one time it was captured by the southerners, but Powers wrapped the government papers in oil cloth and sunk them in the river. Later he recovered them. When the federal government was handicapped in search for pilots to conduct boats up the Tennessee river to Fort Donelson and Henry, Capt. Powers responded, despite the Confederate threat to kill any river pilot that aided the northern troops. After he had safely brought the boats before the forts a reward was offered for his capture, dead or alive. At one time Capt. Powers was captured and taken before Gen. Pillow. He escaped to Cincinnati and enlisted as a first-class pilot in the Mississippi squadron. At the battle of Shiloh, when the gunboats were ordered up the Tennessee river to Pittsburg landing, Capt. Powers was the only man in the fleet who knew where the landing was. Gen. Grant sent for him to thank him, and after their meeting the two became close friends. At Johnsonville Capt. Powers was severely wounded. As a pilot Capt. Powers knew the Ohio river from Pittsburg to its mouth, the Mississippi from St. Louis to New Orleans and the navigable portions of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Naval Veterans at Denver. There was a large attendance of the Naval Veterans at a reunion held at Denver during the G. A. R. encampment. All the different squadrons were represented, and nearly ever-present in the Western fortilla. The local committee provided headquarters and extended other courtesies to the visitors. The reunion was held under the auspices of the Flying Squadron of Naval Veterans, and to which naval veterans are eligible for membership. The officers elected were: alpha; Lieutenant commander, John T. Don, Morocco, Ind.; secretary, John K. Cincinnatti, Ohio; treasurer, W. F. Comstock, Denver, Col.; chief of staff, W. L. Palmer, Carthage, D. Headquarters will remain in Philadelphia, where arrangements were made for a reunion at Minneapolis next year during the G. A. R. encampment.

# HORTICULTURE AGRICULTURE

The Ben Davis Apple.

The tree that to-day is receiving the greatest amount of attention from fruit growers is the Ben Davis. Its increase in popularity has been unusual. The Ben Davis apple to-day has innumerable enemies among the fruit growers who have fought its progress step by step. The apple does not stand high in quality and sells low on the market; sometimes it sells \$2 per barrel less than the Jonathans, Grimes Golden or Kings. Yet for all this, the Ben Davis apple trees are being numerous planted and are exceptionally favored by great commercial growers. There are fruit growers in all of our western states who are putting in Ben Davis orchards consisting of thousands of trees. Not only in the West, but in the Middle and New England states the Ben Davis apple trees are being extensively planted. The tree is certainly remarkable, in that it thrives well on the prairies in the West and on the clay hills in the East.

Having originated in Kentucky one would hardly expect to find it a fruit adapted to Wisconsin, yet such is the case. While the Ben Davis is only medium in quality it has a rich red color when it is allowed to fully mature on the trees. This often has been its greatest help in selling. People will buy fruit on its looks even if they know that its quality is not as great as the quality of some other fruit. This is illustrated in the experience of the fruit exporters. At the Paris Exposition in 1900 among other fruit Ben Davis was shown there in considerable quantities. The fruit after a few days' showing was each time auctioned off to the Parisians to make way for new consignments of fruit coming from the United States. It was a surprise to the men that had opposed the Ben Davis apple to find it selling under the hammer of the auctioneer at 35 franc or about \$7 per barrel. No other American apple brought the same price. The Parisians were not deceived in the quality of the fruit for they continued to buy the Ben Davis apple even after they had tested their quality. The bright red color caught the eye of the Parisians who were said to have a longing and a prejudice in favor of the yellow apple.

The fact is that the Ben Davis apples vary in quality according to the place where they are grown. The Ben Davis apple grown in Kentucky, southern Illinois, Missouri and in other localities having a humid atmosphere and a long season, reach a large size and bright color and have quite a good flavor. We have seen these apples in Missouri so highly favored that they were considered a delicacy upon hotel tables. We have also seen some good Ben Davis apples as far north as Wisconsin, but in most cases the Ben Davis apples in Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and adjacent regions are lacking in size, flavor and color. This is due to the fact that the season begins late in the Spring and closes early in the Fall.

Make Cuttings Now. Few people realize how simple a matter it is to propagate one's own grape vines, currants, gooseberries and most ornamental shrubs. If the work is properly done these plants may be readily propagated by means of cuttings made late in autumn after the leaves are off of the plants, but preferably before cold weather comes on. Only well ripened mature wood that has grown during the preceding summer should be selected for the purpose, all soft or immature parts being discarded. The cuttings themselves should be made six to ten inches long and the base of each should be cut squarely just below a bud, so the bud is retained at the lower end. They should be tied up in bundles of convenient size, say, one hundred in a bundle, their butts, or basal ends, all one way, well shaken down, so as to stand level on a flat table. They may, then, be packed in fresh, moist sawdust and be kept through the winter in a cellar or callus pit.

Upon the approach of spring, as early as the soil can be worked and before the buds have begun to grow on them, they should be planted out in good garden soil. The rows should be about four feet apart, to admit of easy cultivation, and the cuttings should be set very firmly in the soil, so as to leave no air spaces about them, and get deep enough so only the uppermost bud is above the ground. They should then be given clean cultivation and hoed to keep down all weeds during the summer, when usually an excellent growth of plants will be secured. Currants, gooseberries, the Marianne and Golden Beauty plums, some varieties of quinces, the barberry, spiraea, mockorange, privet, most varieties of shrubs, willows, poplars and some other varieties of forest trees, root readily from cuttings handled in this manner. J. C. Whitten.

Professor of Horticulture, Missouri Agricultural College.

## Lime in Garden Soil.

I heard one man the other day assert that as he was not trying to grow legumes there was no reason for liming his land. Now he may be badly mistaken and may be paying for that mistake by losing annually on about all of the garden crops he grows. If the land is sour from any cause lime will sweeten it and allow the yeast ferments in the soil to grow. These ferments do a work that must be done if we are to have good crops. If there is a good supply of this vegetable matter, a part of the organic lime is changed by the nitric ferments into nitrate which makes the nitrogen of organic matter available for plants.

The lime also aids to break up some of the insoluble compounds of potash and renders that element available for the completion of the work of the nitric ferments. Especially for lands devoted to truck gardening and that are constantly heavily fertilized the use of lime every few years has a very beneficial effect. Wm. Knibb, Cherry Co., Ill.

Learn About Fertilizers. Every farmer that has to use commercial fertilizers should make a study of them. There is nothing more essential in his farm work. He should understand what are the elements of plant food and why he needs to buy certain fertilizers and not certain others. This caution is needed badly, as among the multitudes of retail vendors of fertilizers are many that are selling farmers' fertilizers that are of no value to them, though those same fertilizers would be of value on other farms. The dealer simply wants the profit on his sale. This is not true of all, but is true of some. The farmer must himself needs in

DuPage Co., Ill. Albert Bates.