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**FASHION**

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The seasonable fancy blouses one sees at afternoon teas, recitals, matinees, and at evening musicales and benefits, are even more beautiful than the earlier models.

Some time ago I predicted the advent of the sheer, almost transparent, hand-embroidered linen blouses worn over silk slips, either white or delicately colored. The latest of these are simply exquisite, and show to best advantage with a closely fitted, trailing black velvet skirt.

Mrs. Lydig, formerly Mrs. W. E. D. Stokes, Countess Festetics and dozens of the Modishes affect these stunning black velvet tailor-made gowns, with which they wear exquisite bodices.

A woman who frequents Sherry's at the luncheon hour, and who is most artistic and original in the choice of her gowns, has a novel blouse of heavy white lace, over which delicate and tiny pink roses are strewn.

These are made of thin silk with yellow centres, and each is no larger than a dime.

A few silver paillettes are also woven into the fabric with good effect.

In cut, the bodice was plain and tight fitting, but had a front and puffs above the wrist of white tucked chiffon, silver spangled.

From the full chiffon vest the lace fell away in small revers edged with rosebuds.

The latest material for these dressy waists is Irish crochet, with batiste medallions and chiffon and silk roses, buds and vines appliqued upon it. It seems like painting the lily to garnish Irish crochet, especially with the modest batiste, but the result is good.

It will doubtless be favored, because it is costly; a blouse of this sort costs about a hundred dollars. French knots and odd hemstitchings and insertions on silk are quite the rage.

Yokes, blouses and even entire robes are literally covered with these tedious French knots, while tuckings have taken on the most wonderful shapes.

A pale blue silk mull has tucks all over it, so tiny as to cause wonder how anyone ever had the patience to do them.

They run, too, in every direction, and still the blouse fits beautifully.

This model has a collar of tucked inch squares.

The yoke is of alternate lace and tucked bits of the same size.

The fulness below is of the finely plaited mull. The tucks from the under arm run diagonally to the front waist line, and from the middle bust up and down to a depth of perhaps two inches, where they change abruptly and become horizontal to the belt.

The sleeves are even more eccentric. Blouses have never before shown such elaborate and careful workmanship.

Some of those worked out in silver gray are particularly effective.

So many women find gray becoming. This is particularly true in regard to the more modish members of our best families, with whom elegance and simplicity are synonymous terms.

Mrs. Alfred Vanderbilt, Mrs. George Vanderbilt and Mrs. "Harry" Lehr are partial to gray in all its delicate

shades, and with a touch of black in combination.

The advance spring blouses shown prove that grass and silk linens, from the coarse, scratchy quality to the dainty, veil-like and finely woven, are to be again popular.

The newest are much trimmed, and always have lace combined with them in some way.

One of the most delicate quality has box plaits from top to bottom outlined in the heaviest possible Russian lace. It is odd how the tendency to unite coarse and fine material continues to increase.

At first it was crepe de chine and cloth, then chiffon and fur, tulle and fur, and white lace and black velvet; and now the rule, if any, seems to be the coarsest trimming with goods of finest quality, and vice versa.

A fine white net blouse made over silk has heavy black velvet anemones worked over its surface in trailing tendrils.

The design is wide at the shoulders and narrow toward the belt.

A peculiar new sleeve is a feature of many of these new blouses. It has a fulness let in from above the elbow, just at the back, and is caught again into the sleeve about three inches above the cuff.

Old-fashioned watered silk is to be in favor again this spring. Some of the wide-shouldered shirt waists of this material are very pretty, trimmed with small crocheted buttons in clusters; but this style always seems to me too old for a young girl.

All sorts of moire are shown at the shops in becoming shades.

The yellows are especially good.

Another singular thing about the waists at present is that those of washable materials are as expensive, if not more so, than those of silk.

There is more work on them, to be sure, but it does seem rather like reversing the natural order of things.—Lady Modish in Town Topics.

\* \* \*  
Benjamin F. Parker of Kalamazoo, Mich., is the proud possessor of a horse that chews tobacco. The name of the horse is Alice Maud and she has a record of 2:30.

**ADIEU TO THE STAGE**



May Irwin, the famous comedienne known in theatrical circles as the "jolly good fellow of the American stage," will be lost to American theatre-goers after this season. Miss Irwin announces her fixed intention to retire from the stage at the end of the season. Her many friends in the profession are planning to give her a testimonial on her retirement.

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**BRITISH SCHOOLBOY BLUNDERS.**

The historical and other "facts" given here are taken from schoolboys' examination papers.

Of whom was it said, "He never smiled again?" William Rufus did this after he was shot by the arrow.

My favorite character in English history is Henry VIII., because he had eight wives and killed them all.

Edward III. would have been king of France if his mother had been a man.

Alexander the Great was born in absence of his parents.

What followed the murder of Becket? Henry II. received whacks with a birch.

The principal products of Kent are Archbishops of Canterbury.

The chief clause in Magna Charta was that no free man should be put to death or imprisoned without his own consent.

Where were the kings of England crowned? On their heads.

What were the three most important feudal dues? Friendship, courtship, marriage.

What do you know of Dryden and Buckingham? Dryden and Buckingham were at first friends, but soon became contemporaries.

What is Milton's chief work? Milton wrote a sensible poem called the "Canterbury Tails."

Give the names of five Shakespearean plays. Macbeth, Mikado, Quo Vadis, San Toy, Sign of the Cross.

An optimist is a man who looks after your eyes, and a pessimist is a man who looks after your feet.

A man who looks on the bright side of things is called an optionist and the one who looks on the dull side is called a pianist.—St. James Gazette.

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