

NEW IDEAS IN HATS.

VERY FEW HAVE YET PRESENTED THEMSELVES.

Spring Headgear Must Be Ingeniously Contrived to Present Decided Novelty, for It Seems as if Almost All Feasible Types Were in Present Use.

Millinery Modes.
New York correspondence.

PRING millinery as yet casts no shadow before it to inform waiting women of what is coming, but one point is certain, the new headgear that is donned at Easter time must be ingeniously contrived to present decided novelties, for it seems as if almost all the feasible types were in present use. It seems utterly impossible that all the current styles in headgear will be cast aside with the first of April, and appears more than probable that, instead of bringing a general change, Easter will see a blending of the winter modes into those of spring. With the latitude that is now permissible, there is no excuse for an unbecoming or unsuitable hat, and the woman that wears such should rightly feel the law's heavy hand. She has all the shapes in the world to choose from, she may have a big hat or a tiny one, may trim it with all the colors of the rainbow, or make it all one color, nodding plumes, perky bows, flashing buckles, velvet, silk, satin, lace, fur—all is fish that comes to her net, and all is fashionable that comes to her hat.

At present the newest idea in millinery is a type of hat that has uncertain shape and outline, and that is made from a twisted fold of velvet, plaid velvet, or some rich bright shade pre-



OF LOOPS TOPPED BY PLUMES.

ferred. The fold takes remotely the outline of a hat, and wire holds whatever shape it has, though when it is on the head it looks as if it wasn't meant to come off. On the hat of this sort that appears at the head of this column, a series of the very popular crepe poppies is set above the edge of the velvet, making as much of a brim as the hat can boast. These poppies are as big as your hand, and may be bigger if the hat is large enough to stand it. They are merely soft rosettes of crepe of some delicate shade, and in the center of the rosette is set a whirl of poppy stamens. That's your poppy. Whole hats are made of such, and it is permissible that they should quite swamp the velvet so that only an edge of it shows against the hair. At one side a flare of aigrette rises, at the back the edge or brim narrows till it lies against the hair, and the top presents a creased surface of the velvet, so that the aigrette shows in all views.

The loose drawing of the hair from the brow, temples and sides of the face has exerted a far greater influence on recent millinery than most women realize. Such dressing of the locks absolutely demands a setting of picturesque outline in the hat. The method followed by the best milliners this season is to build on a very small foundation a hat of large surface and brim, after the manner of the second pictured one. The building is done by weaving in and out along the narrow brim of the form-



ALMOST HIDDEN BY TRIMMING.

tion great loops of soft velvet or silk. These loops spread in different directions, making a soft and irregular wide brim that bends to the shape of the head and that sets softly against the wave of the hair. The foundation for such a hat is often no more than a little wire skull cap. A great soft loop of ribbon spreads on either side, and a narrower one extends almost to the hair line in front. Between the front

loop and the side ones the hair rolls softly. At the back a series of loops lies close to the hair. To give the needed touch of audacity without which the modern girl of the moment would seem merely commonplace, a pair of plumes is set in front, upstanding snarply, their tips nodding in different directions.

Whenever a hat comes from the maker with brim and crown that can be easily recognized, it seems as if the milliner at once seizes upon it and devotes all her energies to destroying the outline of said brim and crown, and to elaborating the whole into something new and strange. A favorite method is presented in the third illustration, and consists of setting a wide ruffle of silk against the sides of the hat, the lower part of the ruffle being held by a hat band, and the top rearing a waving



A TYPE THAT IS MOST ALL RUFFLE.

edge far above the original crown. This edge is held to irregularity and grace—one and the same thing these days—by wire. Tucked down safe somewhere between the ruffle and the side of the hat is a plume, or a bunch of plumes, and the tips rise still higher and bend gracefully over the edge of the frill. The band by which the frill is held to the hat is as elaborate as you like, and is knotted into a bow on one side that lifts an end or so towards the general uprising above. All brims are either cut narrow or rolled close at the back and a knot of ribbon, or a bunch of flowers should always lie under the brim and against the hair. The brim itself is softened in effect by setting net or lace against it; indeed, by the time the milliner has completed her transformation of the hat not an inch of its original surface is visible or of outline is to be traced.

The same idea of ruffles can be made to supply the scheme for an entire hat, and a pretty interpretation of it is next shown. In appearance it is like a double ruffle, one frill standing up for the sides of the hat, the other flaring horizontally to serve as brim. A band holds the two ruffles to their respective duties, and the resulting hat may or may not have a crown or top. Sometimes investigation discovers a little tiny wire or felt affair with a modest low crown and a narrow brim, both of these features having been overreached by the applied frills. Such a foundation serves merely to give firmness to the ruffles and to attach to the hat the final flare of plume, aigrette or uplift of some



AT HIGH NOON OF BRILLIANCY.

sort. Such a hat is worn well on the top of the head, and the hair rolls softly under the curving frill that makes the brim.

So much of the newest output of our best hat makers is so pronouncedly gorgeous with brilliant effects as to plainly convey the warning that the day of spanglements and flasheries is at high noon, and not a bit on the wane. Under this exaggerative treatment the simple-minded felt becomes a blaze of metallic arabesque, and when such a felt is turned sharply back from the face, then slashed above the brow, making two paddle-wheel affairs that flare to either side, and when these paddles are spread all over with big designs carried out in metallic tissue, set with gleaming rhinestones, the investigator will begin to realize that she is in more danger of putting too little than too much of pronounced effect on her best hat. Cock's quills are again the rage, and they, too, have succumbed to the spangling tendency so long displayed by plumes. These quills are now set madly in at all corners of the hat, and stick out "slantingly" in every direction; indeed, not unlike the effect that might be produced if the hat had been set up for expert archery target and every arrow had come home. Copyright, 1905.

The fox's reputation for smartness was well sustained by a member of the tribe near Falmouth, Maine, the other day. A couple of bounds and a hunter were after it, and the fox led the bounds to a frozen pond, and out on the ice so thin that it just supported the fox, which escaped, while the bounds went through and were drowned.

TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Farmers Should Beware of Sharps
—Diet of Pigs—Farming in Public Schools—A New Insecticide—Sunshine in the Hothouse.

Buy from Reliable Firms.
Shyster concerns that manufacture all sorts of materials and put their goods on the market in all sorts of conditions, in order to get some of the trade of old established and reliable firms, are as characteristic of the fertilizer trade as of other trades, says the Connecticut Farmer. Anyone who puts out a fertilizer can get it officially analyzed at the experiment stations, and it appears in their reports, but the farmer does not know whether the concern is reliable or not. The Connecticut station, in its annual report for 1895, just out, emphasizes the fact that in buying mixed fertilizers farmers must rely to a large extent on reliable dealers, and says: "The main security of purchasers of mixed fertilizers is in dealing with firms which have an established reputation, and in avoiding 'cheap' goods offered by irresponsible parties." The caution is certainly needed when more than one-third of the nitrogenous superphosphates sold in Connecticut do not furnish in all respects all the manufacturers claim for them. Out of seventy-six brands, twenty-one are below the manufacturer's minimum guarantee in respect of one ingredient, five in respect of two, and one in respect of all three ingredients. It is the concern that have capital invested in plants that are most likely to remain in the business, and are the ones that in the long run are likely to look well for their reputation, for they have more at stake. Another point that strengthens this caution is that in most States the analysis of fertilizers are not made until after the spring trade is over.

The Care of Swine.
The pigs are very fond of boiled potatoes, and they fatten off them faster than any other single diet. Boil the potatoes thoroughly in a big kettle, adding a little cornmeal, and a few apples, if they are handy, says the Massachusetts Ploughman. Mix together thoroughly, and feed to the pigs either warm or cold. They will relish such a diet, and thrive nicely off it during the winter months. Where but one or two brood sows are kept upon a farm, they will probably fall heir to the swill or slops from the house. Such food is good for them, providing first that too large a proportion of it is not water, and second, that it is fed warm in cold weather. When ice covers the swill barrels the food taken from it is in a very unfit condition for brood sows. The adjuncts to swill may include one or more of all the kinds of grain sown upon the farm, as, for instance, wheat, rye, barley, corn, millet, oats, peas, shorts and wheat bran. But of these, corn, rye and millet should be fed sparingly, and barley cautiously, as they are too highly carbonaceous.

Farming in Public Schools.

At one of the Ontario farmers' institutes John Darners said on the subject of introducing this topic into the schools: Nature should be the textbook, the teacher should be merely the director and maintainer of the attention. It is true we have object lessons in our schools, but if these, as so often they do, end with a cataloguing qualities, the result is chaff and not wheat. The observation faculties are not trained by merely observing, but by reasoning about what is observed. The eye sees the object held before it, but trained scientific observation sees more or less of the history of that object stretching away back into the past or attempts to measure its future possibilities. I should rather have my child reach ten scientific conclusions by his own efforts (observations) wisely directed than to acquire a thousand by remembering loose dioxits of teacher or text-book.

For example, I propounded the question: "Whether is the dew heavier on calm or on windy nights?" After three observations the child said "on windy nights," giving her reasons. Even that result I thought much better than if she looked in a book and read the opposite statement. I told her to continue watching and writing each morning what she noticed. The farmer needs to use his eyes and reach correct judgments from his observations; so does everybody else. Hence nature study should form an important part of every school curriculum from the first to the highest grade. Progress in this kind of education cannot be tested by the ordinary written examination upon a set of formal questions prepared for all the schools of a country or a province.

A New Insecticide.

Tree vermin will soon have no peace or comfort in the orchard or shrubbery of the progressive farmer or lover of nature. Kerosene emulsion, paris green, pyrethrum and other insecticides have been most effectually used in the destruction of certain forms of insect pests, but a class of vermin consisting of borers and other sorts have baffled all attempts at their destruction. The New Jersey Experiment Station found the German lime remedy, "raupenleim," effective, but expensive. Accordingly, the station officials set to work to produce a similar product within the reach of all farmers and others who would rid their premises of tree insects. "Dendrolens" is the product of the experiments, and has been found very effective. It weighs about like butter, and is applied to trunks of trees with a brush. Being sticky, insects can neither crawl up nor down a trunk coated with it, or insects cannot bore through the trunk, or the adult insect issue from the tree trunk for its freedom. Applied to trees, it shows no

harmful effect. It has been found effective in destroying peach and pear borers, and will probably afford immunity from canker worm, scale insects, moths and caterpillars. Full particulars of this insecticide are printed in Bulletin 111 of the New Jersey Experiment Station at New Brunswick.

Sunshine in Hothouses.

It is a suggestive fact that the number of eggs laid rapidly decreases as the days grow shorter. The time of greatest scarcity and highest prices is during the shortest days of winter. To be sure, these are generally also the coldest days. But lack of sunlight encouraging the fowls to active life has something to do with it. In a dimly-lighted hen house fowls will stay on their roosts until 9 or 10 o'clock on a winter's morning. Every hen house should have at least one window in the east and another in the south. If these windows, especially the ones to the east, are made double and the sashes closely fitted, there will be little loss of heat through them. Unless windows are made double they will do little good in admitting light on the coldest days, for they will be obscured by an ice covering from freezing of the moisture in the breath of the fowls.

Care of Milk in Winter.

Milk should never be set in the kitchen, nor where potatoes or other vegetables are stored, as the odor of the vegetables will injure the flavor of the cream, and thus spoil the butter. Where a creamery is not in use the cans may be set in a wooden vat or chest. The box should be a little deeper than the cans and have a lid that can be locked, and a few auger holes bored in each end near the top for ventilation. Cover these holes with gauze wire to keep out mice. The box should be given two coats of white paint inside and out.

In the early fall it should set near the well in the pump-house, and be filled with water within one inch of the top of the cans. When the weather becomes cold set the box in a room that can be kept at a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees, and dispense with the water. Milk can be kept for several days sweet in such a box, and a first-class quality of butter can be made from the cream. A creamery for five cows will cost \$25 and a milk chest to hold the milk from the same number of cows can be made out of 1 1/2-inch white pine lumber in the best manner for \$10, which will answer every purpose. A cheap thermometer should be hung in the box so the right temperature can be had.—The American.

Feeding Sheep in Winter.

A correspondent of the Albany Cultivator thinks that it is foolish to talk of balanced rations for sheep. Corn and straw will suffice to fatten them, with some turnips if they can be obtained. Reading farther on we find that he limits his corn feeding to one-half pound of corn per day. But for a poor, thin sheep so much corn might be injurious. The advantage of the balanced ration is that it enables the feeder to give a greater amount of nutrition without injury to the digestion. By giving a little wheat bran and whole oats with a quarter of a pound of corn per day at first, and gradually increasing it to half a pound, the sheep will gain faster and will be little likely to get off their feed, as they might do where corn is the only ration. The greater variety of food a sheep has the less likely it is to be injured. Where corn is fed whole oats should always be added. The sheep chews its cud, and will digest whole grain better than any other stock excepting poultry.

Orchards in Grass.

Where orchards have been kept in grass a few years a large proportion of their feeding roots will be near the surface. To plow these orchards when in full leaf is very injurious, as the trees are growing then and the lessening of plant food gives them a check. Plowing while the buds are dormant does little harm, for though it destroys the feeding roots others will start lower in the soil from the main roots by the time the leaves are out. It is sometimes advisable to plow young thrifty orchards in summer to check excessive production of leaf and wood, and induce fruit bearing.

Grain for Young Animals.

The coarse grains are cheap this winter and hay is generally scarce if not dear. In most cases for their nutritive value the coarse grains like corn and oats are quite as cheap as hay or straw. They are much better for young stock which needs to get its nutrition in a form that will not take it all to digest. That is the trouble in feeding exclusively on straw and other coarse food. The animal can do no more than sustain life, and after being stunted all winter its digestion is so injured that it never fully recovers. Keep the young stock growing, and it will be better for it during all its after life.

Feeding Beet Leaves.

The large varieties of beet have very few leaves in proportion to their size. These leaves make a valuable feed for cows and hogs, but must be used quickly, as they are very succulent, and decay as quickly if left in heaps. The leaves are succulent rather than nutritious, and ought always to be fed with grain and other dry feed. They are as good as the beets to increase the milk flow while they last.

Seeds and Plants in Flower Pots.

It is better to plant in the open ground through the summer and transfer to a pot of rich earth in winter than to try to keep plants in pots through the winter. The vigorous growth of root in summer will prevent the plant from blooming very freely, and the check which the root will receive in transplanting to a pot will make it bloom freely at the time when blossoms are worth the most. But in proportion as the roots are cramped they must be supplied with richer soil.

WOMAN AND HER WAYS.



HIDING FAMILY JEWELS.

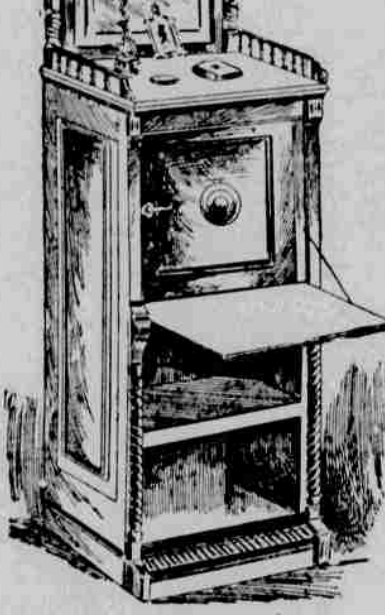
A prominent safe manufacturer, in speaking of the sensational diamond robberies of the last week or two, said that in such cases carelessness was usually the cause.

"We have built many vaults in houses similar to the Brooklyn vault safe, but naturally such work is not noised abroad to any extent. In fact, absolute secrecy as to location, etc., is one of the provisions of such contracts. Of late years we have built safes in the oddest and least suspected parts for residences, and houses have been entered by burglars and robbed of articles of small value while these hidden safes are passed by unnoticed.

"These jewel safes cost anywhere from \$300 to several thousand, where there is any excavating work or any elaborate provisions for hiding entrance doors, etc. But a safe in a private residence is much more secure than an office safe, which is unprotected during the night. Few burglars will risk the inevitable discovery that would follow an attempt to blow up a safe in a private residence."

The safe in which Mrs. Willie K. Vanderbilt keeps her beautiful gems is a small one built in a cabinet to match the style of the room in which it is constructed. In outward appearance it is a beautiful piece of old furniture, but within it contains a perfectly made and extra strong safe of the iron box variety, with places for money, papers and set and unset stones.

The other Vanderbilt residences have safes built in the walls which are of the newest kind and safest possible construction. When the value of the Van-



MRS. W. K. VANDERBILT'S SAFE.

derbilt gems is considered, one can imagine that to feel security for their safe keeping precautions must be of the greatest kind. Private detectives are usually employed as watchmen about the Vanderbilt and Astor residences, both day and night.

When the daughter of "Boss" McLaughlin, of Brooklyn, was married about four years ago, she received presents to the amount of over \$125,000 in diamonds and jewels of various kinds. She made her residence on Washington Park, Brooklyn, and beneath the sidewalk she had built a remarkable vault, fireproof and guaranteed to be absolutely safe. Solid steel intervened between the pavement and the roof of the vault.

Waist Measurements.

What is a well-proportioned waist? Lady Haberton says: "The true proportion is a difference of ten inches between the circumference of the bust and that of the waist. Thus a woman whose bust measures thirty-six inches should have a waist measuring twenty-six inches. Bust forty inches, waist thirty inches, and so on. Very few corsets are made in this proportion, and if they were, still fewer people would buy them, as fashion decrees that the waist should measure from twelve to fifteen inches less than the bust." In the course of time women may come to realize that true artistic effect is only attained by a proper respect for proportion and symmetry. Plenty acknowledge this truism in most things but dress, where they cannot avoid flying to extremes.

Bloomers of Brocaded Satin.

Perhaps the most unique novelty is the dainty lace-trimmed bloomers of brocaded satin. They are designed to take the place of the short flannel petticoat so dear to the heart of the old-fashioned woman. These bloomers are lined throughout with Canton flannel to give the necessary warmth, and really protect the legs much more effectually than a skirt would. The fashionable new woman wears over them nothing but a long silk petticoat and her dress skirt, but she wears beneath them the regulation flannel drawers. Less expensive bloomers are made of taffeta, and still others of flannel.

Shining Fingernails Show Poor Taste.

Polishing the finger nails until they resemble an advertisement for stove or silver polish is a crime against good taste. It ranks with the wearing of diamond earrings to market and other

barbarities. The finger nails need sufficient rubbing with the chamomile brush after the hands have been washed to revive them from the dinginess imparted by water. But the rhinestone-like glow which was the pride of the well-mannered a few years ago is considered atrocious now. The use of paste and of coloring matter to increase the luster is utterly abolished.

Belle of the Capital.

There are two young ladies in the family of the vice president, and both are popular girls. Miss Julia Stevenson might, perhaps, claim the honor of being the belle of the capital, for she is much admired, not only by the young people among whom she moves, but by all classes of society. The Stevenson girls are sweet, unaffected, full of life and kindly in manner, dress sty-



MISS JULIA STEVENSON.

listly, and are always ladylike and gentle, writes a Washington correspondent. The girls are often much amused at the various accounts that get into the papers of their imaginary gifts, one journal stating that both of them were so skilled with the needle as to be able to make their own gowns, while the truth is that it is an accomplishment they do not possess—and one that could not be expected in consideration of the elaborate toilettes that are now worn.

Newest Needle Note.

Venetian embroidery done on heavy linen is very effective. The designs are outlined with flat soutache braid, buttonholed over, and the centers are filled in with various lace stitches.

Roman embroidery on heavy satin duck is also used. The designs are outlined in buttonhole stitch over cord; the centers are filled in with long stitch, interlaced effectively in some portions of the pattern.

For "netting" very few and simple implements are required. They consist of netting needles and meshes of various sizes. They are made of steel for fine work and of ivory, bone or box-wood for larger, coarser work.

Split outline stitch is used for outlining very fine designs. It is the same as ordinary outline stitch, except that the needle is brought up through instead of at one side of the thread of the preceding stitch, thus making the outline finer and more even.

Many new tea cloths and center cloths are finished with hemstitched borders, and are decorated with the fish net stitch. The outlining may be done with silk or with cord covered with, or rather caught down by, buttonhole stitch. Fish net work done in colors is very attractive.

Outline stitch is the fundamental stitch of Kensington needlework, which still continues popular. It is used on much of the embroidery of the day. It is used for working designs in outline, either flowers, figures or pictures, in the latter being sometimes called sketch embroidery.

Ball Gown.



Curried Sardines for a Late Lunch.

For a bite after the theater try curried sardines, cooked in a chafing-dish. Make a paste, with butter, made mustard, curry powder, and a few drops of vinegar or lemon juice. Skin the sardines and carefully wash the oil off. Spread them thickly with the mixture and grill them for a minute, and then serve either on fingers of fried bread, dusted with coralline pepper, curry powder, and minced parsley, or on fingers of hot buttered toast.

To Sweeten Butter.

If you have butter that is not entirely sweet, put it in a porcelain dish with a little salt and a tiny piece of soda, place over the fire and bring to a boil. Turn it into a stone jar and set in a cool place. The butter will be found perfectly sweet and not too salt for cooking. The impurities will settle to the bottom of the jar.