

GOWNS AND GOWNING

WOMEN GIVE MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WEAR.

Brief Glance at Fancies Feminine, Fritzelous, Mayhap, and Yet Offered in the Hope that the Reading Proves Restful to Wearing Womankind.

Gossip from Gay Gotham.
New York correspondence:

More than half of the items of interest that the spring fashions display for dressmakers concern coat bodices, so women should not tire of hearing a bout the m. Fashion has reduced itself to a coat of another color and refused to do more. All tailormade gowns are being modeled with coats, though, truth to tell, most of them have silk bodices to go beneath, summer gowns are being made with lace coats over fronts and foundations of silk and little coats of chiffon and of net so dainty that they would seem too frail to survive more than one wear, are really planned for being adjusted over varying waists. If your bodice is a coat in no other way at least it will have a little pair of tails, perhaps no more than the extension below the waist of the back breadth of the bodice, or there will be something in the way of hip pieces set on at the sides. Perhaps coat edges will be simulated by braid above the waist, or, just because the skirts of the bodice that were carefully hidden under the dress skirt last year are allowed to show below the belt this season, you say it's a coat, and fashion backs up the statement.

But there's no need of doing the trick on the whole-effect-at-small-out-



WITH COLLAR TO EAR TIPS.

lay principle. There are a plenty of ways to make the bodice unmistakably a coat, and a handsome model of this kind is shown above. It is in Louis XV. style, but that signifies little to most of us. What is more to the point is the material of it. That was royal blue cloth encrusted with lace applique. The deep godelts in back were bordered with narrow lace insertion, and the fitted cloth vest had large revers of white faille and bands of the same in the waist, each fastened with large fancy buttons in different sizes. A profusion of lace applique showed on the sleeve puffs, and a white chiffon ruche and jabot finished the neck. With this came a plain skirt of grayish blue cloth.



A NEW REVER EFFECT.

generally mounted with frills of some kind, even if they do not extend all around them at the back. The long discarded white and yellow ruffling that comes by the yard appears again

for this use. In some cases the frill is of material and color to match the ribbon of which the collar is made, but is faced with velvet on the side next the face, then the frill stands out flat, putting the face, so to speak, on a platter. All sorts of variations are rung on this effect, and many of them are very becoming. But the close stock collar is no longer to be considered. Indeed, why should it be, when the required alteration is so easily made?

It is attention to just such little things as these collar tricks that makes a woman seem well dressed, and prompt copying can, in this instance, be effected at small outlay. Another method of attaining the concealment of the neck that is deemed essential is by the wired medall collars. These are much worn, as may be judged from a glance at the remaining illustrations. In the first of these the collar is in one with



A BLEND OF CAPE AND JACKET.

an ingenious cape-like finish to the bodice. The stuff here is bronze-brown cloth, a narrow white satin vest showing in front. Each side of the vest has a tiny pocket, and the tops of both fronts and vest show brown silk embroidery. In the second model the collar is in one with odd revers, the stuff being old rose bengaline. The same fabric is gathered for the bodice, while on the revers it is richly embroidered with red and pink silk and spangles. Triangular pieces of garnet velvet appear on the shoulders, and stock collar and belt are white taffeta ribbon. Skirt and sleeves are garnet silk crepon, though the latter may be of the bengaline if that is preferred.

Not less elaborate and dressy are some of the gowns for early spring that are trimmed in cape effect, the ornamentation in many cases taking not only the shape of a cape, but supplying so much of the cape's protection against chilliness that the dress may be safely worn without an outside garment to conceal its beauties. A type of this sort is next pictured, its combination of cape and jacket effect being quite unique. The material is gray cloth, white satin being used for pointed vest and as facing to the ripple basque, revers and wired collar. Inside the latter there is a white satin collar, ending in a lace jabot, and the cape-like coverings to the sleeves are in two parts, one of lace, the other of cloth.



A COMPROMISE IN STRAITS.

All the edges are bordered with gold and steel galloon, and white satin bows are put on the cloth cape pieces. Strap garnitures that make a great show of fastening parts of a dress together and that really have no purpose beyond that of ornamentation are still in vogue, but on them buckles have given way to buttons, and it is more often the plan to have the straps serve as fasteners. The final gown to receive the artist's attention is a compromise in this matter, the straps upon bodice being practicable, while on the skirt and sleeves they are solely for effect. The stuff from which they are cut is tan cloth, the other goods being broadened green satin. Panels of the latter appear on the skirt, and it gives the whole bodice, the collar being from the cloth.

The blaze of color in spring and summer will rival the tulips. Hats, too, are almost garish in their abundance of bright hues. Turquoise blue promises to be the most popular summer color, but geranium scarlet and bright grass green are not far behind. That means that the brunettes will have the best of it, but they need not be overconfident, lest some sudden shift of favor turn the tide against them.

In man, the sense of smell is less developed than that of sight, as it is much less needed. All moths produce some form of silk.

ALL ABOUT THE FARM

SUBJECTS INTERESTING TO RURAL READERS.

Potato Planting with Modern Machinery—Good Fences Are Important—Many Pleasures in Farm Work—How to Guard Against Hog Cholera.

Planting Potatoes.
In planting potatoes, either for home or for market, the first essential, says the American Agriculturist, is a well-drained, rich plot of land. A field which has been two years in clover is usually the best. To this apply a heavy dressing of well-rotted barnyard manure. Break the sod in the fall or the winter three or four inches deep, then in spring turn it over to a depth of eight or nine inches, and cut up thoroughly with a disk harrow, continuing the operation until the seed bed is well fined and in the best condition. Use a smoothing harrow to compact it sufficiently, so that it will not be dried out unduly. The ground is now ready for planting. The old method of hand planting will probably continue for the



FIG. 1. HAND CUTTER.

general farmer who cultivates but a small patch for his own use. The potatoes are cut by hand to two eyes, dropped in rows three feet apart, with the hills eighteen inches apart in the row. If they are to be plowed one way, and two and one-half to three feet apart if they are to be cultivated crosswise. Checking, however, is hardly ever necessary except where the land is very foul. For commercial planting, hand processes are entirely too slow, consequently inventors have constructed machines both for cutting the potatoes into suitable sized pieces and for planting them. There is also on the market a machine which cuts the seed and at the same time does the planting. Figs 1 and 2 represents a hand potato cutter which will do the work of eight or ten persons. The potato is dropped into the hopper, the handle brought over and pressed down, and the potato is cut into pieces of a uniform size. Fig. 1 represents the bottom of the hopper, crossed by six knives, with one running lengthwise. The number of knives can be decreased so as to make larger pieces of it, or can be increased and smaller pieces obtained. This machine can also be used for cutting beets, turnips, carrots, and other roots for stock feed.

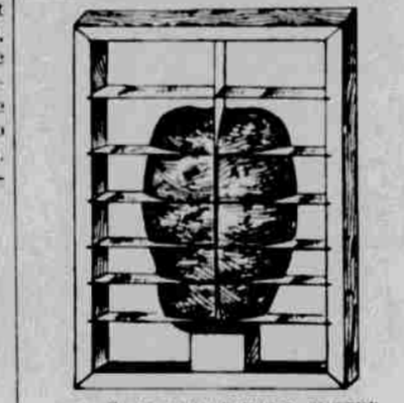


FIG. 2. KNIFE OF HAND CUTTER.

Machines for planting potatoes at the rate of four to eight acres per day are no longer an experiment. One man only is needed to operate the machine that plants cut seed, while the automatic cutter and planter requires a man and boy. These implements open the furrow, drop the seed, and do any desired amount and kind of fertilizer, covering evenly with soil to a uniform depth, bringing an even stand. A marker indicates the next row and keeps the rows straight. One of these machines soon saves its cost on a farm where potatoes are grown to any extent.

Pleasures of Farm Work.
Many people despise their work, when they ought to be thankful that they have something to do. A man or woman who goes through life lolling his daily work is a miserable mortal, who makes this world full of hell, and prepares the way for plenty of it in the next, says Rural Life. A child that has not been taught to work has not been half raised. An education that does not develop habits of industry is a curse to its recipient, and the recipient is a curse to the State. In this new country of ours there is abundant opportunity for everybody who loves to work to get rich. Industrious people are the happiest, most virtuous, and companionable of all society. Industry begets all the cardinal virtues, while indolence begets misery, want, vice and crime, and these things follow the rich as well as the poor. I met a farmer not long ago who had learned to hate his lot upon the farm. He had determined to sell out and go to a certain little village and open a restaurant. The village has already twice as many restaurants as the customer needs. The farmer has never had any experience in running a restaurant or walking in town life. It is, therefore, safe to predict that he will utterly fail and learn to hate the restaurant tenfold worse than the farm.

Seeding to Grass.
A Connecticut farmer, who gives no clew as to the character of the soil, nor the kind of farming he is engaged in,

asks advice about seeding clover to grass field that has been in hoed crops for two years, but for which he has no manure or fertilizer unless he buys on credit, says Storrs' Agricultural Standard. If he has use for the fodder, a crop of oats and peas, and clover grown therewith, for plowing under in the fall, would be a good order to follow before seeding down. If this plan is adopted, I would advise the use of 500 pounds of bone and 200 pounds of muriate of potash per acre when the oats and peas are sown. Sow one and one-half bushel each of oats and of peas as early as the ground can be worked, plow the peas under and sow the oats and fifteen pounds of common red cloverseed after plowing and harrow lightly. Unless the ground is quite dry the cloverseed should only be bushed in.

Different Kinds of Bone Meal.
Bone meal is not confined to one name, but is known also as ground bone, bone flour, bonedust, etc. We find in the market raw bone meal and steamed bone meal. Raw bone meal contains the fat naturally present in bones. The presence of the fat is objectionable, because it makes the grinding more difficult and retards the decomposition of the bone in the soil, while fat itself has no value as plant food. When bones are steamed, the fat is removed and the bone is more easily ground. Moreover, the chemical nature of the nitrogen compounds appears to be changed in such a manner that the meal undergoes decomposition in the soil more rapidly than in case of raw bone. The presence of easily decaying nitrogen compounds in bones hastens, in the process of decomposition, to dissolve more or less of the insoluble phosphate. Bone meal should contain from 3 to 5 per cent. of nitrogen, and from 20 to 25 per cent. of phosphoric acid. About one-third to one-fourth of the latter appears to be in readily available condition. Raw bone meal generally contains somewhat more nitrogen (1 or 2 per cent.) and rather less phosphoric acid than steamed bone meal. The fineness of the meal affects its value; the finer the meal the more readily available is it as plant food.—Bulletin New York Station.

Draining in Place of Grading.
It is often said by farmers that low, wet places need to be filled in so that the water that now settles in them can run off over the surface, says the American Cultivator. But anyone who tried to grade up even a small hollow knows how ineffective this method proves. A tile drain dug through the center of the wet place, if a small one, and with two or three branches if larger, will do the work much more cheaply and effect a permanent improvement. Where a large quantity of water runs into the low place from adjoining uplands the drain may not at once be able to remove it. But water standing over a field even for two or three days, while an under-drain beneath it is carrying off the surplus water, does no harm to any crop. There are, in fact, no crops on the land in spring excepting winter grain. We have had winter wheat covered on a flat piece of land several inches deep with water, which froze over the surface, but without any injury to the wheat. The water sank away under the ice. By the time a thaw came the surface was dry and the crop had simply been saved by the ice from exposure to the freezing and thawing of surface soil it would otherwise have received.

Small Litters Are Best.
I believe that a sow that produces six or eight pigs at a litter will bring a better income generally than one that produces twelve or fifteen pigs, says a writer in an exchange. The reason why I think so is this: A sow in farrowing twelve or fifteen is almost sure to have a lot of them small, very runty and no account whatever. Almost sure to be all sizes, and what is more disgusting than to have a large litter of pigs of all sizes. A litter of this kind seldom grows and does as much good according to the food consumed as a smaller litter. The unevenness of the litter seems to be the worst feature of the situation, for the reason that the larger ones fight off the smaller ones, and thereby, after a while, the smaller ones begin to dwindle and die, and after all, you have nothing left of your large litter but a few of the larger ones, where, if you had eight goods pigs to start with, you would not be bothered with the trouble I have spoken of.

Drinking Water.
Speaking of drinking water for the hens is a subject too often left out of consideration, says Home and Farm. They don't want or need a great deal, but they want it with a vengeance that makes up for any lack in quantity. And in cold weather they ought to have it with the chill taken off. Cold water may not hurt the hen's teeth, but it does the rest of their organism, and it isn't good for them. A good plan is to give the flock water three times a day, and to empty the vessel from which they have drunk afterward, so as to prevent the water freezing in it.

Guard Against Hog Cholera.
On farms where cholera appeared last summer and fall new hog lots ought to be provided this spring, and the animals should not be allowed to run in pastures which were frequented by diseased stock. If necessary, sow a patch of clover, which will take the place of a regular pasture field. Lot can usually be moved at comparative small expense. Unless precautions of this kind are taken, another outbreak may occur at any time. Proper sanitation, food and good care may ward it off.

Good Fences on the Farm.
Good fences are an important thing on every farm, and they need to be kept in good repair. Keep weeds and brush well culled out of the corners,

WOMEN AT HOME

PRETTY Princess Marie, of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, was taken to Berlin in 1892, when she was just 17, and there met the handsome crown prince of Roumania, who very quickly recognized her charms. Princess Marie was equally attracted to him, for he, as well as being handsome, is possessed of great charm of manner and uprightness of character, a prince fitted in every way to be a hero of romance. The betrothal took place not long after their meeting with the cordial assent of all the relatives of both prince and princess; and on Jan. 11, 1893, their marriage was celebrated at Sigmaringen. The beauty and youth of Princess Marie touched all hearts, and her winning manner soon made her as beloved by King Charles as if she was actually his own daughter. The Queen of Roumania is as charmed with her new niece as the king is, and looks on her and treats her as a daughter, finding in her companionship a relief from her sad memories and fits of melancholy.

The costume worn by the Crown Princess Marie of Roumania, in the portrait which accompanies this article, was worn by her at a recent festivity in Bucharest. The petticoat was of plain silk, the overdress being of richest brocade, the design of bunches of feathers tied together with true lovers' knots being very dainty and effective. The flieu of Brussels lace was draped in exact imitation of that worn by a dead and gone beauty in a portrait from which the costume was copied. Since Princess Marie's advent in Bucharest the leaders of society there have done their best to devise novel and brilliant entertainments to amuse her royal highness, and she and her handsome young husband are uniting in attending festivities and other functions in aid of charities when the presence of the royalty is desired in order to secure the success of the undertaking. Now that Queen Carmen-Sylvia's health does not permit her to exert her

what taste may be. If monograms are hoarded, it is these that decorate instead of the wax impressions. A "trip" fan means the record of a winter journey, and it holds on its sticks the pretty imprints with which all first-class hotels now stamp their stationery. If a European trip has been undertaken, so much the better, as that insures steamship and other effective insignia.

Sweater for Women.
For a long time girls, and even women, have felt that they would be happier if they could wear sweaters. It was tried by some adventurous spirits, and while found perfectly satisfactory about the throat lacked the symmetry women have learned to prize about the waist. This had led to the manufacture of women's sweaters. These lack that



THE FEMINE SWEATER.

style which made the manly sweater so desirable in women's eyes. But, on the other hand, they gather in at the waist and are entered after a manner more familiar to women than is the male sweater. At first they were only used in gymnasiums, but now they are considered a necessary part of almost every woman's wardrobe. The up-to-date sweater is not only a sensible garment, but an exceedingly stylish one as well. The coming summer girl will be devoted to the sweater. She can wear it when wheeling, riding, or sailing, and in fact, they are sure to be the fastest friends, for there will be dozens of times when the little knit arrangements will just fit the occasion.

The modernized sweater is far removed from awkwardness. It fits like a glove and the sleeves are generally the long, full bishop sort, with a tight webbed cuff, which clings to the arm snugly from elbow to wrist, and over which the full upper part falls with all gracefulness that fashion demands.

One can find all colors and styles in sweaters. Sailor collars and neatly rolled-over small ones are the kinds most generally seen and they give a very jaunty effect. The act of getting into one of these garments looks to be a heart-breaking operation, but in reality it is simplicity itself. They either button on the shoulder or lace in front, and it is no more trouble to get into one of them than an ordinary waist.

Beauties of Olden Days.
Sappho is said by the Greek writers to have been a blonde.

Jezebel, the Queen of Alab, according to one of the rabbis, had "black eyes that were set on fire by hell."

The Empress Anna of Russia was very poorly and the fleshiness of her face greatly detracted from its good looks.

Margaret of Anjou had the typical face of a French beauty. She was black-haired, black-eyed and vivacious. Her features were indicative of her strength of character.

Pocahontas is described as having features as regular as those of a European woman. She is also said to have had a lighter complexion than usual among Indian women.

Theodora, the wife of the famous Justinian, was beautiful, crafty and unscrupulous. She is said to have been tall, dark and with "powers of conversation superior to any woman in the empire."

Catherine of Braganza, queen of Charles II, was singularly gifted both in person and in intellect, but in spite of her beauty and her good sense she was never able to win the love of her dissolute husband.

Cleopatra was not an Egyptian, but a Greek beauty, with perfectly white skin, tawny hair and blue eyes. Her chief fascination was her voice, which is described as low, well modulated and singularly sweet in tone.

The Empress Catharine I. had a coarse, red face, generally broken out with pimples from the constant use of strong drink. She was a slave to brandy and died of a disease brought on by intemperance. In youth she had been famous for her beauty.

Tame Fish in Irrigating Reservoirs.
The uses of the artificial reservoir are not limited to irrigation; they are usually stocked with fish, which multiply with surprising rapidity and enable the farmer to include this item of home produce in his bill of fare every day in the year. These fish are very tame, and in some cases are actually trained to respond to the ringing of the dinner-bell, coming in scurrying shoals to fight for crumbs of bread thrown upon the water. The reservoirs also yield a profitable crop of ice in winter.—Century.



MARIE, FUTURE QUEEN OF ROUMANIA, herself, the burden of acting as her majesty's representative generally falls on Princess Marie's shoulders.

Nourishment for the Skin.
A dry, scaly skin is a sure indication of a blood disturbance, and frequently accompanies dyspepsia. The best treatment for it is a careful diet, an avoidance of all highly seasoned food, coffee, tea and alcoholic stimulants. Sometimes a dry skin is the result of a long illness where fever has literally burned the cuticle so that it is parched. The skin food which nourishes and builds up the skin tissues and supplies the oils that have been exhausted by heat is most efficacious if applied at night, after a warm bath. It is well to rub it thoroughly into the skin. Massage is excellent in connection with this treatment. Melt in a water bath three ounces of spermaceti, eight ounces of oil of almonds, four of lanoline, and two ounces of coconut oil. Stir briskly until cold; then add, drop by drop, one ounce of orange-flower water and ten drops of oil of jessamine. Keep sealed, except when using.

Timely and Untimely Calls.
The only objection to having a reception day engraved on your cards is that sometimes, as the Irishman said, it is "moighty inconvenient." "It is unexpected that always happens." Fortunately the lady who has grown-up daughters or an unmarried sister who can fill her place temporarily. It requires more unselfishness than most of us possess to give up one day every week to the claims of society; so we only have the name on our cards and go on year after year missing friends we long to see, and being "at home" to numerous acquaintances whom we wish had not been quite so fortunate in timing their calls.

Novel Matrimonial Bureau.
It is reported that the ladies of the W. C. T. U. of Portsmouth, Va., are about to organize a unique movement under the name of the Naples Matrimonial Society. In Naples girls 14 and over assemble once every year in one of the churches of that city, and the unmarried men who so desire go there and choose wives. The Portsmouth ladies propose to work on the same principle, but both the girls and the men must register three months before making choice, in order that investigation of character may be made.

Monogram Fans for Young Women.
Seal and monogram fans are a notion of the moment among young women still in their teens. A plain white or delicately tinted fan is selected, and the gay seals are arranged upon it with